

January  
2021



# Central church of Christ

SERVING AS GOD'S HEART AND HANDS IN THIS COMMUNITY

## Mission Statement

To be God's heart and God's hands in this community and beyond.

## Vision Statement

As followers of Christ, our vision is to be a God-centered, relationship-driven, small-group church committed to equipping all people to live out the life of Christ.

## Contact Information

### Address

801 E. Airline  
Victoria, Tx 77901

### Phone

361-573-9133

### Office Hours

Monday—Thursday  
8:30-5:00  
Friday  
8:30-12:00

## **The Mind of Christ**

### **By Orlan Sawey**

In Philippians 2.5 Paul exhorts us, "Have this mind in you, which also was in Christ Jesus" and then describes the Lord's voluntary descent to man's level, His humble acceptance of the crucifixion, and His ascent into heaven. In another place Paul says, "We have the mind of Christ."

The sectarian world, for the most part, emotionalizes about salvation rather than thinking about it. By many the "heart" of Romans 10.10 is considered the center of the emotions rather than, as the context shows, the source of intellectual response. Recently a young "elder" assured me that a certain document was inspired because he "felt" that it was inspired. Not too long ago, in a discussion of the Bible with a brother, a preacher, I was told, "I can accept that intellectually, but I can't accept it emotionally." Emotional responses are beginning to take precedence over intellectual acceptance, even in the church of the Lord; sometimes emotion assumes a dominant role.

Once it was popular to oppose the word of God by saying it was unreasonable. The anti-christ was once the eighteenth-century "man of reason." Now God's word is low-rated by the emotionalist, the man whose thinking is clouded by his emotions. The "man of feeling" who also became popular in the eighteenth century, is the man of the day. His chief defense is existential emotionalism, not reason. It is not the purpose of this study to deny the existence of emotion or even to define it. Its existence is obvious; its definition is controversial. As late as the Elizabethan age (the era of the King James Version), it was thought that what we now call emotion was the result of the cardinal humors, the four fluids which determined one's health and disposition: blood, phlegm, cholera, or yellow bile; and melancholy, or black bile. We still use words based on these ideas; "phlegmatic, sanguine, choleric, and melancholy."

In 1611 "emotion" meant "moving out, migration." Later, in the eighteenth century, it meant a physical disturbance, or agitation, and was sometimes used in a figurative sense to mean an excited mental state. The word was not universally used in the modern sense until late in the nineteenth century; the modern concept was set forth first by William James in 1884 and later altered and elaborated on by John Dewey. It is not without significance that these two men have been highly influential on the educational theories currently dominant.

Man is an emotional creature. But God also has ordained that His people be rational people, that they be guided by the mind, by reason, and not by emotions only. "Spiritual" and "emotional" are not synonymous; in fact, in Romans 12.2, a word translated in King James Version as "reasonable" is translated in the American Standard Version as "spiritual." Also, what we call "reason" is closely kin to what Paul calls in Romans 8.3-6 the "mind of the spirit," and what we call "emotion" is loosely kin to Paul's "mind of the flesh."

Too long have we deemed "emotional" and "spiritual" the same. We need to look at the matter more closely. Emotions are sensual; they are stirred by what we perceive through the senses. Men often react to what they see and hear and feel, with little thought. This action is sometimes called "instinctive." If our actions are mainly emotional reactions, then we are in fact what modern philosophers say we are; brute beings whose actions are caused by what happens around us. If such is true, we possess no freedom of the will; we make no real choices; we are creatures of circumstance. I don't believe it! It is God's will that we should control our environment, not be controlled by external circumstances. He gave us a mind, a will, the ability to make choices.

*Continue on back...*

*Mind of Christ Cont.*

The familiar story of Thomas' need to see and feel before he believed (John 20.24-28) indicates that Thomas was basically emotional, guided by the senses. Jesus said, "Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed." Paul wrote in Romans 10.17, "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Reason and understanding are involved here. Faith must conclude, on the basis of testimony, that Jesus is the Christ, and His Lord. He cannot feel himself to faith; his mind and his will are involved.

But, it is said, love is a cardinal principle, and love is an emotion. When confronted with the Biblical definitions of love, the emotionalist will say, "Ah, yes, but love is more than that." When confronted with the sinfulness of his sin, the emotional sinner will say, "Ah, but you don't love me!" While it is true that love involves emotion, the modern Hollywood concept of love, largely a product of the romantic, sentimental novel of the late eighteenth century and early nineteenth century, is not the Christian concept. Hollywood's "ideals" produce divorce; the teachings of the New Testament produce a stable marriage, which is based on man's reasonable conformity to those teachings. Christian love is seen by our actions; it involves the reason. The emotionally motivated man is not longsuffering and forbearing. Husbands are commanded to love their wives and wives their husbands and children. The romantic concept is that mother love is instinctive; the savagery of India and Africa-and America-denies this. We must learn to love in the sense the word is used in the New Testament; our practice of love grows as we become more spiritual, as we conform to the mind of Christ.

Jesus said to the questioning lawyer, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind." The life of the Lord Jesus is an eloquent example of the ascendancy of mind over emotion. When emotion and mind were in conflict, mind triumphed. He wept for the sorrow of Mary and Marth; yet He could wait two days to go to them so that the Son and the Father might be glorified by the miracle. The Sermon on the Mount is an extended treatise on the triumph of reason over emotion; most of the precepts taught there conflict with man's emotional reactions. Men are prone to adultery; Jesus taught control of man's thoughts and emotions. Men emotionally retaliate; Jesus taught us to turn the other cheek. The life of Christ, as well as His death on the cross, presents profound testimony of the triumph of the mind and the will over emotion (one would almost say the triumph of the spirit over the flesh). The first four books of the New Testament are filled with similar examples. "But we have the mind of Christ."

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## Bible Hour

1/3 - Cook Family

1/10 - No Bible Hour

1/17 - Mandy Vahrenkamp

1/24 - Mealer Family

We need 8 Teams to volunteer. Each team will be responsible for 6 Sundays spread out over the year.

To Volunteer Sign up at the Info Desk or Contact **Mandy Vahrenkamp.**  
**mev031012@gmail.com**

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## Nursery

If you would like to help out with the nursery please contact Pam Taylor at [pam@churchofvictoria.com](mailto:pam@churchofvictoria.com)

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## Up Coming Events

- ♦ 5th Sunday - Special Contribution for work being done in Guerrero, Mexico
- ♦ Men's Retreat April 30-May 1, 2021

**Volunteers needed to prepare communion in 2021!**

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