

its context is in a different area. The Mind of Christ will, however, bring us to that point where every thought is gathered to honor the Lord and to fulfill His Word.

## **V. The Mind of Christ Enriches our Character and Fulfillment of Duty**

### **A. Introductory Material**

Character is a product of genetics and circumstance hammered out in the forge of life in accord with the grace of God. It is affected by environment and experience. *(There are lots of arguments about this. I am dogmatically asserting it but the Mind of Christ will soften our hardness...it is an unhappy truth that we who preach these things are at times not observant of them. Alas!)* What I am saying is that the items specified are both inherent and developed. The factors that influence these positions are very important and nothing has the greatness of import as does the Mind of Christ. Fulfillment of duty--performance--grows out of character thus the reality and necessity of the Mind of Christ is gripping and available: This is born out of the truth (or truths) that we are new creations----2 Corinthians 5, having the help of the Spirit in understanding ----1 Corinthians 2, and the example of the Lord-----1 Peter 2, and the guidance of the Scripture-----2 Peter 1, 1 Timothy 3. The Mind of Christ enriches all of these and thereby makes both character and fulfillment of duty serviceable to the testimony of God.

In a repetitive mood, we remember that the Lord values the truth, heavenly goals, compassion and care, fellowship with God and man. This is not a complete summary, of course, but a starting point in connection with some of our earlier thinking.

### **B. Demonstrative Lessons (from the life of our Lord)**

1. Personal relationships: Matthew 18 (in difficult areas) the gathering of the twelve in fellowship circles. The words given to John from the cross.
2. Service and serving: Luke 22:14-30, John 13, Mark 10:35. It is somewhat annoying to see that the Lord stresses servanthood and leadership seems to be a result of it...in our modern churches there is a lot more said about leadership than servanthood...and I am dangerously near a pet pique. The Mind of Christ does not allow much room for piques!
3. Reaching out: John 6:5