

## Words of Wisdom from a Mother {continued from 314002}

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by Bill Crews

they must replace it.

- “They are told not to touch anything when we go into stores and not to pick up anything off of the floor, not even a pin.
- “I tell the children to give thanks for the day that we are in and for our being together, for we won’t always be together.
- “When someone hands something to you, always accept with a ‘thank you.’
- “Choose to do your chores cheerfully. A bad attitude will only reward you with extra chores. A smile doesn’t cost a thing; give it freely.”

Readers, and especially parents of small children, I hope that you can read between these very beautiful lines. Many little details are implied by them. Her children at all ages have always behaved well during church services. Quietly she is always in control, and they are not allowed to control or to get out of control. Thank you, dear lady, for sharing your wisdom with us.

## The Mind of Christ

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by Wayne Goff

In 1 Corinthians 2, the apostle Paul affirms Divine inspiration for his writing when he says, “...we have the mind of Christ” (v. 16b).

Ephesians 1 reveals the mind of God when it states repeatedly that God’s eternal scheme of redemption for mankind was devised by a patient, loving God “according to the good pleasure of His will” (Eph. 1:5, 9) or “according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will” (Eph. 1:12). Simply put, God devised our eternal salvation **because He wanted to do so!**

Have you ever done something “just because”? God, Who is higher in wisdom, knowledge and understanding than all mankind, still does things “according to the counsel of His will.” I suspect there is much more to what He does than just doing because He wants to do it! But in the end of the matter, God has the final say. He does what pleases Him because He is perfectly just, righteous, loving, and wise. As creatures made in His image, we should be willing to stop right there.

But to give you an example of the *extended thinking* of God, look at Romans 3:24-26. In the realm of salvation, God had to balance two things: (1) justice; (2) mercy. **If** God extended blind justice to mankind, giving us exactly what we deserved and what justice demanded, then we would all be lost forever! “For the wages of sin is death...” (Rom. 6:23) and “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Rom. 3:23). But God is more than mere justice.

**If** God extended unconditional mercy to mankind, giving us only that which tender affection warranted, then God would be declared unjust! He would not have met the legal demands of justice.

So what did God do, as a loving, merciful but just God? Romans 3 says that through the Gospel He demonstrated “...at the present time His righteousness, that He might be **just** and the **justifier** of the one who has faith in Jesus” (v. 26). God is “**just**” in that He met the demands of justice in paying for our sins. The price He paid for us was the blood of His sinless Son! God is also the “**justifier**” of the true believer because once sins have been forgiven, there is no more debt required by justice, and we are free to be in fellowship with God once again!

We may not always understand the manifold thoughts of God, but as He has revealed Himself to us, we should take the time to stop, contemplate and appreciate His magnificent wisdom. In learning to appreciate both the justice and mercy of God, we will learn to love Him better. And in loving Him better, it will be easier for us to obey. We too “have the mind of Christ” as we read the inspired pages of the New Testament!

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