



Let's Understand!

God wants us to understand a few things!

God does not want us to have childish understanding. He wants us to have adult-like understanding. It is vital that we understand our Christian "understanding" responsibilities, part of which focuses on God's Will. ***You aren't supposed to merely "mentally" exist as a Christian; you are supposed to be a really savvy Christian.***

The only way for this to happen is to achieve the proper level of understanding that God intended for you to have. Folks, it's time to grow up as Christians, leaving Christian child's play behind and



embracing spiritual adulthood! Just what does God want for us to understand?

1Cor.14

[20] Brethren, be not children in understanding [the way you control your thoughts]: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding [the way you control your thoughts] be men.

The underlying meaning of understanding in verse 20 is "to rein in or curb." In the Greek, it refers to reining in the "midriff – a

partition of the body." Interesting? Figuratively, it refers to reining in feelings and thoughts. It means to become sympathetic, which is how the translators came up with "understanding." Adults, have a more practiced ability controlling their minds. That's the focus.

Eph.1

[18] The eyes of your understanding [deep thoughts] being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,
[19] And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to usward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,
[20] Which he wrought in

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Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own righthand in the heavenly places,

Verse 18 uses a different Greek word for “understanding.” It means, “deep thoughts.”

Understand that your eyes of “deep thoughts” are supposed to become enlightened – flooded with light. You are to know the hope of God’s calling you to His family.

Your deep thoughts are to be filled with imaginations of the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints. And, you are to deeply understand the exceeding greatness of his power to us who believe.

Eph.5

[17] Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding [comprehend] what the will of the Lord is.

Verse 17 uses yet another Greek

word meaning, “to comprehend.” God wants us to comprehend what the Will of the Lord is. He does not want us to be stupid spiritually, which is a possibility. Instead, He wants us to be wise.

Phil.4

[7] And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding [intellect], shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

The Greek word supporting “understanding” in verse 7 can be translated “intellect.” God wants us to understand that his peace, something that passes all intellect, will guard our hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. This is a safety mechanism that God has provided, but if we aren’t aware of it, we’ll miss it when we need it the most.

Col.1

[9] For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do

not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding [comprehension];

God wants us to pray that we are filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding. The easiest opposite, not being filled with the knowledge of his will, is a spiritual desert. Who would want such dearth in his or her life?

Col.2

[2] That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding [comprehension], to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ;

God wants our hearts comforted, knit together in love. Add to this

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all riches of the full assurance of understanding, enabling us to acknowledge the mystery of God. Understanding is an inside job. It takes place in your heart and mind. It is not a show of strength, power or physical might. Don't get me wrong. It is a powerful experience. Its might is equal to none. Its strength subdues nations. But understanding is something that God works within you. If you are looking for the effect of its presence, you have to look within. ***If you want to "feel" understanding, you have to touch your heart and mind.*** Don't expect the movement of mountains when proving understanding's existence. You won't see them move. Don't expect revolutions of a worldly nature for they will not happen. Expect to know God better and better every day. Expect a knowingness of His presence and realities year after year. Expect an eternity of greatness meant

especially for you. That's where you'll see understanding's strength, power and might.

2Tim.2

[7] Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding [comprehension] in all things.

God wants us to know that he will give us understanding in all things. With God's understanding within, you will never be without the knowledge you need at any given time. His understanding refers to things spiritual, the very things of God.

1John.5

[20] And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding [deep thoughts], that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

God wants us to know that by being born again, he has given us an understanding of the true Christ. This can't happen until Christ is accepted into your life.

1Cor.12

[3] Wherefore I give you to understand [declaration], that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can [really] say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.

Verse three uses a new Greek word, meaning, "declaration" or "to make known." When you speak in tongues, you cannot curse Jesus. ***And, the only way you can truly say Jesus is Lord is by speaking in tongues.*** Consider this knowledge a "point of departure" for most Christians. Most Christian religions teach that the average Christian can't speak in tongues. They teach that

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speaking in tongues is evil, that it no longer exists, and that it should not be used in Christian worship. These are false teachings and they should be avoided at all costs. God wants His people speaking in tongues. This is foundational and completely essential to truly making Jesus your lord.

Eph.3

[4] Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand [observe] my knowledge in the mystery of Christ).

You may understand Paul's knowledge of the mystery of Christ when you read God's Word related to that subject. The mystery refers to us being part of the one body of Christ, all members in particular. There should be no schism in this body, but there is because of the religious teachings causing the very separations that should not exist. Understand that we are to know about this mystery and that

we are to continue observing it.

Phil.1

[12] But I would ye should understand [really know], brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel;

The things that Paul went through were for the furtherance of the Gospel, the move of God's Word. ***Christians will definitely go through negative situations on behalf of the gospel of Christ.*** God wanted us to really know that this is okay. He went through almost unimaginable things, but he lived to tell about them and to impart unto us the greatest revelation of God's Word given to mankind.

Heb.11

[3] Through faith we understand [observe] that the

worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

How God framed the worlds. God hid the structures of the world. We see the outer manifestations of God's internal creations. His Word did this for us. Understanding that God's Word did this allows us to fully realize that we are viewing coverings of things much greater in design and potential.

1Cor.13

[2] And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand [see with my eyes] all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.

The greatest understanding is foiled if you do not live according to agape. God wants us to understand that without the

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mighty characteristics of agape alive in one's life, any form of understanding is brought to naught. We've seen several different meanings used for the word "understanding." Depending on the meaning, your responsibility of understanding can span a fairly wide gap from observations of the things of God, all the way to deep thoughts of spiritual realization.

The message is ever so clear; agape rules over understanding, but understanding is vital to a Christian's survival. So where does this put the two? ***Both agape and understanding are elevated into two of the loftiest goals the Christian could ever embrace.*** Agape and understanding are the mature Christian's response to his or her calling to the one body. Never let it be said that you don't walk according to the agape characteristics. And, never let it be said that you don't

understand the sheer importance of comprehending God's Will for your life.

Much love in Christ,

Jerry D. Brown