

The Mind of Christ

TEXT: “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” (Phil. 2:5-11)

THESIS: We are to follow in the same mind as the one who first loved us, Jesus Christ.

INTRODUCTION:

1. The church at Philippi was having some extreme difficulties in unity.
 - a. Earlier Paul had said, “Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel; And in nothing terrified by your adversaries: which is to them an evident token of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that of God. For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake; Having the same conflict which ye saw in me, and now hear to be in me.” (Phil. 1:27-30)
2. In Phil. 2:1-4, Paul continues to write about how they were to be like-minded meaning “In unity.”
 - a. And, how we are to be doing things that produces joy.
 - b. And, are to have the motivation to be a part of this unity.
 - c. And, how we are to have the right attitudes toward others which promotes unity.
3. Thus, Paul advises the church at Philippi to:
 - a. Not do things that brings about strife and empty glory (vs. 3).
 - b. Instead, have in you this lowliness of mind, this humility that all of us work together toward a common goal.
 - c. He says, “Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.” (Phil. 2:4).
4. Then in verse 5, Paul continues on and tells them to have, “this mind” or this way of thinking permeate throughout you because it was the same mind that Christ had in him.
5. Therefore, let us acknowledge the mind of Christ by observing that:
 - a. The mind of Christ demonstrated humility
 - b. The mind of Christ looked out for the interest of others
 - c. The mind of Christ is highly exalted by God

DISCUSSION:

I. THE MIND OF CHRIST DEMONSTRATED HUMILITY

- A. Beginning at vs. 6, “Christ Jesus: who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God.”
1. Before Christ came to the earth, he was in the form of God showing that his nature is God: Deity himself and co-participant with the Father and the Holy Spirit.
 - a. John spoke of the divinity of Christ saying, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.” (Jn. 1:1-3)
 - b. “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth.” (Jn. 1:14)
 2. Thus, Jesus was God in the flesh who earlier had no physical form.
 - a. Yet on earth, Jesus said, “Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.” (Lk. 24:39)
- B. Therefore, Christ did not consider himself being robbed to put on human flesh, “But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:” (vs. 7)
1. So by giving up his form of God and taking on the form of man, he demonstrated his humility.
 2. Christ was to identify himself with mankind.
 - a. Not to present himself as divine, but as human.
 - (1) Why?
 - (2) Because if he had come to the world in the form of God, the world would have been amazed, but not saved.
 - (3) It is interesting to notice that he counted the serving of mankind, his prize.
 3. He willingly gave up his place of glory so that he could give lost humanity an opportunity to be saved.
 - a. He did not hold on to his heavenly status, but forfeited it for the good of mankind.
 - b. This is the illustrating point that Paul is conveying to the brethren that we are to give one’s self to the service of another.
- C. However, Christ did not give up his divine characteristics on earth for Matthew 1:18-25 records: “Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring

forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.”

1. Jesus had an earthly mother, Mary and a divine heavenly Father.
2. And, “For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.” (Col 2:9)

D. But, do we have the mind of Christ toward humility?

1. Do we consider ourselves first or do we serve others and put ourselves last?
2. If we consider ourselves more important than others, then we lack the mind of Christ.

II. THE MIND OF CHRIST LOOKED OUT FOR THE INTERESTS OF OTHERS

A. Paul wrote that Christ, “made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.” (Vs. 7-8)

1. Jesus gave up the glory in eternity with his Father while on earth, but he did not empty himself of all his divine characteristics.
2. In human form, he still retained his godly powers:
 - a. He walked on water he healed the sick; he gave sight to the blind; he stilled tempests; he read the minds of men; he raised the dead, and so on.
 - b. To see him was in effect to see the Father for: “Philip saith unto him, Lord, show us the Father, and it sufficeth us. Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father?” (Jn. 14:8-9).
3. He gave up his heavenly glory in order to enter into this world, by which he later would request that glory to be returned to him (Jn. 17:5)
 - a. And, we are given a glimpse of this glory in: Matt. 17:2 when his face shined as the sun and his raiment was white as the light.
4. You see, Jesus was coming to do something that he had not done before which was, to be in service to others.
 - a. Matthew penned, “Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.” (Matt. 20:28)
 - b. Our Lord both practiced and taught service.
 - (1) He said, “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save

that which was lost.” (Lk. 19:10)

- (2) Also, “there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written.” (Jn. 21:25)

B. Therefore because of this service, he existed as a man and bore all the aspects of a mortal human being.

1. You see, He took upon himself all the attributes of a man. He assumed all the innocent infirmities of our nature. He appeared as other men do, was subjected to the necessity of food and raiment, like others, and was made liable to suffering, as other men are. It was still he who had been in the ‘form of God’ who thus appeared; and, though his divine glory had been for a time laid aside, yet it was not extinguished or lost.

- a. The Hebrew writer said, “Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.” (Heb. 2:14, 17-18)

- (1) “For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.” (Heb. 4:15)

- (2) “Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared;” (Heb. 5:7)

2. Therefore, it is important to remember, in all our meditations on the Saviour, that it was the same Being who had been invested with so much glory in heaven, that appeared on earth in the form of a man.
3. The beloved John said, “That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.” (1 Jn. 1:1-3)

C. But not only did he service man walking among them, he furthered his humility and service by suffering death on the behalf of mankind.

1. He said, “Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life,

that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.” (Jn. 10:17-18)

2. “And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.” (Jn. 12:32)

3. Jesus said, “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” (Jn. 15:13)

a. And this is what Jesus did.

b. He had become obedient to his Father and laid down his life.

c. And not just any death, but death by way of a cross which was a shameful kind of death.

(1) “Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:” (Gal. 3:13)

(2) “But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;” (1 Cor. 1:23)

D. Consider Heb. 5:8, “Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;”

1. Jesus in every way a man like you and I (while still the Son of God), He humbled Himself and obediently suffered and died on the cross!

E. Why did Jesus do all this?

1. All for the sake of others because he loves us!

2. He became man, humbled himself as a man, was obedient, and then died on the cross because it was in our own best interest.

a. Paul said, “We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification. For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me.” (Rom. 15:1-3)

b. For, “Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.” (Isa. 53:4-6)

F. But, do we have the mind of Christ by looking out for others best interest?

1. Are we willing to humble ourselves or do we sacrifice things to give to others who are in need?

2. If we do, we have the mind of Christ.

G. The beloved John said, “Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.” (1 Jn.

3:16)

H. Such is "The Mind Of Christ", one of humility and service to others.

III. THE MIND OF CHRIST IS HIGHLY EXALTED BY GOD

A. Paul continues on to say, "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:" (Phil. 2:9)

1. Now because of what Christ did, God exalted him.

a. Thereby, God appointed his Son heir of all things (Heb. 1:1-4)

b. "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds." (Heb. 12:1-3)

2. And God has given him a name that is above every name by which no other name can compare to.

a. You know, it is not the name that is so significant, but the greatness is found in his position with respect to God and man.

b. And, he is the head of the body.

B. "That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Phil. 2:10-11)

1. All men should adore Christ by honoring and obeying his will.

a. Now, while God does not force people to believe, the evidence is clearly seen to show that Jesus is the son of God.

b. And, everyone will be held accountable to him for their response to his authority.

2. You see, the extent of homage toward Christ is deserving not only of those in heaven, but also in the earth and under it.

a. Angels extend their allegiance to him (1 Pet. 3:22)

b. Those in the world are to offer reverence and allegiance to him (Psa. 22:27)

c. Those in the Hadean realm of Paradise must give their allegiance as well as those in the Hadean of realm of torment.

(1) Yet, it will do those in torment no good to bow before their King because it will be too late for them.

3. Every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord.

4. This offering to Christ brings glory to God the Father which is the greatest aim of our religious life.

a. Paul said, "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the

- name of the Lord Jesus,” (Col. 3:17)
- b. And, those who have the mind of Christ will participate in that great and future exaltation of Christ!
 - c. Paul penned that, “When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day. Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power: That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.” (2 Thess. 1:10-12)
- C. Isn't this a wonderful motivator for us to have "The Mind Of Christ"?

CONCLUSION:

1. In these few verses, we have read of one who showed humility, obedience, service and great sacrifice.
 - a. We as Christians are also to live in humility, being obedient to God and presenting ourselves as a servant which entails great sacrifice.
 - b. And when Christians act with this “mind of Christ,” it produces unity among brethren and the joy that one day we will be in glory together with Christ.
 - c. What a reward that will be!
2. And it is because of the love that God in the flesh, meaning Jesus the Christ has shown us in the sacrificing of himself.
 - a. He considered himself one of no reputation meaning empty.
 - b. A servant who humbled himself and was obedient until death.
3. Yet, is this not what Christians are likewise to do?
 - a. We are to sacrifice ourselves for him.
 - b. We are not to show everyone how high and mighty we can be.
 - c. We are to simply be servants to him and his will, faithfully until death (Rev. 2:10).
4. Therefore, how much less are we to walk in the same line, having the mind of Christ?
 - a. Jesus gave us his all, his very best, and he did all of this for us.
 - b. What have we done for him?
5. You see, when we live the life of a Christian, not only is it pleasing to God, it exalts him.
 - a. But, when we forget to live Christ minded, we have brought shame to him.
 - b. Thus, if you are not a Christian, why not begin possessing “The Mind of Christ” by following His example of humble obedience to the Will of God?
 - c. Or there may be some here who have fallen away, will you not restore the mind of Christ in you?