

The Mindset of Christ

Philippians 2:1-11

vs. 27-28, Standing firm in one spirit with one mind, striving side by side for the faith of the gospel. Not frightened by your opponents.

Understanding a Jesus centered theology of suffering...

vs. 1-2, So (Therefore)

If there is any encouragement in Christ

Comfort from love

Participation in the Spirit

Any affection and sympathy

Complete my joy... How?

By being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

vs. 3, Contrast

The opposite is selfish ambition and conceit.

But...**in humility** count others more significant than yourselves.

What does that look like?

vs. 4, Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Notice: It is a both/and.

There is a holy taking care of one's self, but it isn't done in the absence of taking care of others.

Question: Are you able to see and meet the needs of others at the same time that you recognize and give attention to your own needs?

vs. 5, This type of thinking and living comes from Jesus.

This is where you learn and grow **in humility**.

vs. 6, Let's talk about Jesus.

Paul is using trinitarian imagery (**vs. 1**)

- Encouragement -> Christ
- Comfort -> Love (God)
- Participation -> Spirit

"The Spirit teaches me to yield my will entirely to the will of the Father" ~ Andrew Murray

Through the struggle, "we begin to enter into a grace-filled releasing of our will and a flowing into the will of the Father. It is the Prayer of Relinquishment that moves us from the struggling to the releasing." ~ Richard Foster

Studying and meditating on Philippians 2 allows us to learn the prayer of self-emptying.

Selfish ambition and vain conceit are not options when we are of one mind and one spirit.

Jesus -> poured himself out (emptied himself) by becoming a slave.

Humility - counting others more significant than yourselves (not based on merit)

Paul's emphasis is on community, but it must start with individual obedience.

Dig deeper:

Church Family Earthly Family
When is a family functional or dis-functional?

Cultural individualism strongly discourages a real functioning church family.

Question: How am I making the steps toward highly functioning church family relationships?

The mind I have for your community (church) is the same mind of God spelled out in the incarnation.

The humiliation of Christ (vs. 6-8).

The exaltation of Christ (vs. 9-11).

vs. 6, form of God

morphē - is used of both the external features by which something is recognized and the characteristics and qualities that are essential to it.

- It expresses the reality of Jesus being God and the metaphor of him taking the form of a slave.

Did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped.

- The idea is Jesus is not selfish or grasping the very glory he deserves (he is rejecting the popular view of kingly power). He is not taking advantage of his reality.

Luke 23:39-43 Then one of the criminals hanging there began to yell insults at him: "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!"

40 But the other answered, rebuking him: "Don't you even fear God, since you are undergoing the same punishment?"

41 We are punished justly, because we're getting back what we deserve for the things we did, but this man has done nothing wrong." **42** Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

43 And he said to him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

Jesus has always existed in equality with God.

- He did not take advantage of this reality.
- He did not do what is normally expected by those who have status.

vs. 7, Instead, he emptied himself (poured himself out) for the sake of others.

Emptied himself does not mean that he emptied himself of the divine.

2 Corinthians 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

Even though in reality Jesus was rich (Lord), he entered history poor (a slave).

He was human without advantages, rights, or privileges.

Being born in the likeness of men

- He is similar to us because he is fully human (incarnation).
- In becoming human, Christ did not cease being divine.
- Yet he is dis-similar because he never ceased being equal to God..

Paul's Point: In Jesus, God has shown his true character / nature.
Christ poured himself out for the sake of others.

We are created in God's image.

We are to have his mindset.

We are to be a servant (slave) for the sake of others.

Application:

We communally must have the same mindset as Christ, counting others more significant than ourselves.

We can follow the example of Christ.

vs. 8, Paul repeats himself in reverse order (parallel) by using the art of rhetoric.

And being found in human form,
 being born in the likeness of men
By becoming obedient to the point of death
 by taking the form of a servant
He humbled himself
 emptied himself
Even death on a cross
 did not count equality with God (A subtle exception)

- Jesus fully revealed the truth about God.
- God has demonstrated his love through self-sacrifice (humiliation on a cross) for the sake of those he loves.

vs. 9-11, Even in the scandal there is great hope (assurance).

The name that is above every name

The name Yahweh has not been given to Jesus.

But Adonai (Hebrew) -> The Lord which was a common title for God became a primary title given to Jesus.
The Septuagint uses the Greek Kyrios (Lord) for the Hebrew Adonai.

This reveals Jesus' equality with God, yet distinct from Yahweh (the Father).

He is from the beginning to the end.

1 Corinthians 12:3 Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says "Jesus is accursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except in the Holy Spirit.

Romans 10:9 because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

We confess Jesus is Lord
 and distinct
 to the glory of God the Father.

Acts 2:36 Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."

The church in Philippi will experience suffering from those who continue to declare Caesar as lord.

But the truth is Jesus is the name above every name. Jesus is Kyrios (Lord).

Question: Simply put, Is Jesus your Lord? If he is, it changes every aspect of your life. It changes how you engage the church.

What adjustments need to be made?
What relationships need to be prayed through?
What commitments need to be re-evaluated?

How then do I pour myself out for others (by the power of the Holy Spirit)?