

Have the Attitude of Christ

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Philippians 2:1-8 (NLT) Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate?

² Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose.

³ Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. ⁵ You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.

⁶ Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. ⁷ Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, ⁸ he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.

Illustration: An old Scotsman operated a little rowboat for transporting passengers. One day a passenger noticed that the old man had carved on one oar the word *faith*, and on the other oar the word *works*. Curiosity led him to ask the meaning of this. The old man said, "I will show you."

He dropped one oar and plied the other called works, and the boat went around in circles. Then he dropped that oar and began to ply the oar called faith, and the little boat just went around in circles again.

After this demonstration the old man picked up faith and works and plying both oars together, sped swiftly over the water, explaining to his inquiring passenger, "You see, that is the way it is in the Christian life. Dead works without faith are useless, and faith without works is dead. But faith and works pulling together make for safety, progress, and blessing."

Genuine faith is evident in our interactions with one another.

Paul starts of this passage with four questions concerning the believer's relationship with Christ.

The point he is making with the questions is simply, if you actually belong to Christ, have experienced His love, are in relationship with Him through the activity of the Holy Spirit, and have discovered His compassion and mercy, it should be reflected in the way you relate to one another.

Nothing would make Paul happier than for the believers to live their lives in a way that demonstrates that they are sincere disciples of Jesus Christ.

Philippians 2:2 (NLT) Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose.

- Wholeheartedly agreeing with one another (speaks to unity in **mind** and purpose)

- Loving one another (speaks to the motivation of the **heart** for one another)
- Working together with one mind and purpose (speak to the works of the **Hands**)

Where there is true unity of mind and purpose, there is genuine love for one another, and when people love one another, they work together for the greater good.

When people sincerely love one another and work together for one shared goal, there is no competition or power struggle.

What does it take to get here?

Philippians 2:3-4 (NLT) Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.

- We must not be selfish (selfish people are always trying to impress others)
- We must be humble (humble people seek to uplift others, not tear them down)
- We must look out for the interest of others not just our own. (win/win mindset)

In other words, we must follow the ultimate role model.

Philippians 2:5 (NLT) You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.

(NCV) In your lives you must think and act like Christ Jesus.

"Kingdom people are called out of the world to be holy, separate people. We are called to be nonconformists, resisting the pattern of the world as we are transformed into the image of Jesus." Gregory A. Boyde

Romans 8:29 (ESV) For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

2 Corinthians 3:18 (ESV) And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

We are called to live like Jesus

1 John 2:6 (NLT) Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did.

Philippians 2:6-11 (NLT) Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. ⁷ Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and

was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, ⁸ he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.

The goal of the Christian life is to know and to be like Christ

As followers of Jesus, God wants us to reflect His likeness.

Jesus lived a selfless life. He didn't live to make a name for himself. Instead, He lived and died for the sake of others. He came not to raise Himself, but to elevate us.

Mark 10:45 (NLT) ...the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

We are called to serve people just as Jesus did.

In John 13:15, after Jesus washes the feet of His disciples he said, "I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you."

This is representative of Jesus' entire ministry. Jesus never placed himself in a position above others. He led by serving, and He loved by serving. He washed feet.

Jesus is our primary example who we are called to imitate.

- He connected with the people (even those others looked at as outcast)
- He prayed for people
- He met physical needs (the poor)
- He addressed spiritual needs
- He loved His those who others hated and even those who hated Him.
- He forgave his enemies

Jesus lived a life of great humility. He showed us that serving others and humility go hand in hand.

Philippians 2:3-5 (Voice) Don't let selfishness and prideful agendas take over. Embrace true humility, and lift your heads to extend love to others. ⁴Get beyond yourselves and protecting your own interests; *be sincere*, and secure your neighbors' interests first. ⁵*In other words*, adopt the mind-set of Jesus the Anointed. *Live with His attitude in your hearts.*

Imagine what your marriage or parenting would be like if you practiced this kind of mindset. Imagine what the atmosphere of your job or business would be like if you came in with this attitude.

We are called to be representatives of the Kingdom and reflectors of King Jesus. To be like Jesus!