

# Do I Have The Mind Of Christ?

Phil. 2:1-11

## Introduction

- The church at Philippi was very dear to the Paul.
  - Its beginning had been with difficulty. (Acts 16:9-40)
  - It is evident as you read 1:1-8, especially 7-8.
  - Their love for Paul is evident as well. (4:14-15)
- The church at Philippi was quite commendable, but not without issues that needed to be addressed:
  - A conflict between sisters. (4:2)
  - Murmurings and disputings. (2:14)
  - The problem of selfishness, which can lead to the former. (2:2-3)
  - The danger of false teachers creeping in and leading them astray. (Phil. 3:1-3)
  - Nothing new or unique in these situations.
- Paul addresses these issues by going straight to the heart of the matter: The heart. (Prov. 4:23; Matt. 15:18; Phil. 4:8)
  - To correct their problems they would have to change their hearts, minds, attitudes...
  - Real change begins on the inside with the heart, then works its way out into our actions and words.
  - They would need to meet the challenge that Paul presents in 2:5 → **Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.**
    - His mind would have to be in them.
    - Here is where the answer begins for us. We must learn to have his mind in us: Strive to think like Jesus.
  - How can I know how Jesus thought? What is this attitude that I must strive to make my own?

## I. The Mind of Christ...

- Paul tells us five things about Jesus that helps us to see the attitude we must have:
  - #1 → Jesus existed in the form of God. (v- 6; Jn. 1:1,14; Heb. 1:8; Col. 2:9; Jn. 8:24)
    - This tells us that Jesus is God. He fully posses the same Divine nature as the Father and the Holy Spirit.
    - He had all the power and prerogatives that attend being God. (Jn. 17:5)
  - #2 → Jesus did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped. (v-6)
    - Consider the extent to which men will go to attain or hold on to power and privilege.
    - Jesus is different. He was not consumed with self and protecting his position in heaven.
    - This explains what follows:
  - #3 → He made himself of no reputation (emptied himself) v-7
    - This does not mean that He emptied Himself of His Deity; that He ceased to be God. (Matt. 1:23; Isa. 9:6)
    - He relinquished the glory and advantages that were rightfully His in heaven. He sacrificed the glory, grandeur, and position He had there to come to this sin sick earth. (II Cor. 8:9)
    - Part of the sacrifice that Jesus made for you and me.
  - #4 → Jesus took the form of a servant and was made in the likeness of men. (v-7)
    - What if the President of the United States were to leave Washington and visit Birmingham?
    - Contrast this with the entrance and earthly existence of Jesus Christ:
      - He came as a man. He took on a human body and lived as one of us. He experienced fully what it is to be human.
      - He was hungry, thirsty, tired, tempted, suffered, etc.
      - He came not just as a man, but as a bondservant.
      - “...Christ voluntarily entered the stream of life as a slave, freely and lovingly choosing to live as a person without advantage, denying his own rights or privileges, and placing Himself completely at the service of all mankind.”
        - »Jesus gave this summary of his mission in Mark 10:45 → For even the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

- #5 → Jesus humbled himself and was obedient to the point of death. (v-8)
  - This is how far Jesus took his mission as a humble servant for the world.
  - He was willing to suffer the cruel, painful, degrading death of the cross. The torturous execution reserved for the lowest of criminals.
  - He was so set on doing the will of God and humbly serving mankind that he allowed himself to be betrayed, arrested, beaten, mocked, nailed to a cross and killed to give his life as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of mankind, even those who were putting him to death.
- How should we respond to this as we are reminded of what Jesus did for us?
  - Gratitude, thankfulness for the ultimate sacrifice that Jesus made for us. (I Cor. 15:57; II Cor. 9:15; I Tim. 1:12)
  - Paul’s point in this passage is that we are to “have this mind which was in Christ Jesus”.
    - The humble heart of a servant.
    - Of one not consumed with self, privileges, and personal advantages.
    - Determined to put the needs of others before his own.
  - Paul instructs us to imitate that attitude. (Phil. 2:3-5)

## II. ***How Will The Mind Of Christ Be Seen In Me?***

- ***The one possessing the mind of Christ is not consumed with self.***
  - This goes against the grain of our culture, where so many are focused on self.
  - The mind of Christ says, “It’s not all about me.” Getting my way or having others cater to me, (Phil. 2:3-4) It is the attitude we see in Jesus. (vv. 6-7)
  - The choice: caught up in the current culture of who’s serving me? Or having the mind of Christ.
- ***The one possessing the mind of Christ submits completely to the will of God:***
  - This is what we see in Jesus. His prayer in the garden (Matt. 26:39ff). He did not desire what was coming, but He was completely committed to the will of God, even when it meant going to the cross.
  - The one with the mind of Christ puts aside self-interests, stubborn will or personal feelings to fulfill God’s will – in every facet of life. (Matt. 7:21)
- ***The one possessing the mind of Christ will be focused on the needs and concerns of others:***
  - Christ put our needs before his own well-being. (Heb. 2:9)
  - Are we focused on the needs of those about us, or on self?
    - Temporal needs.
    - Spiritual needs.
  - Joy and fulfillment comes from putting others first:
    - Phil. 4:1 → my joy and crown
    - John 13:17 → “happy are ye, if ye do them”
    - Matt. 20:26-28 → greatness found in service.