**1 – Mind of Christ**

*Philippians 2:5-8; Matthew 26:39*

*As we will notice in the study, the mind of Christ has a lot to do with humility. Next lesson is the “Humility of Solomon.” This lesson we will discuss the actions taken by Christ to show selflessness and humility in His life. Solomon’s humility will carry with it a different tone and angle.*

**(v. 5)**

* *“Let this* ***mind*** *be in you”* – this phrase points back to the previous verses at the start of chapter 2.
  + **What does he mean by mind?** – The thought process. The attitude. (Think like Christ thought.)
    - You? – ESV – *“Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus.”*
      * This translation is inaccurate and carries with it a completely different meaning.
      * *“Among yourselves”* denotes a group effort in that thing. (cf. 2:12 – Paul is discussing individual responsibilities.)
      * *“Which is yours in Christ Jesus”* suggest that the purpose of the following verses was not to give Christ as an example of having this certain “mind.”
        + We are described elsewhere as being “in Christ.” However, the thing that is in Christ in this particular context are His own thoughts. Ergo, an explanation is given in the next verses as to what that thought process was.

**(v. 1-4 – Instruction for us before the example of Christ.)**

* Four grounds of appeal for the Philippians to do as Paul commands.
  + *“consolation in Christ”* – Exhortation in Christ to do so.
  + *“comfort of love”* – Love gives comfort. Incentive to obey Paul’s inspired command.
  + *“fellowship of the Spirit”* – All have partaken of the same Spirit. They have all become children of God by obeying the same word. They are unified in Him, so be unified together.
  + *“affection and mercy”* – Do they care about each other? Do they care about Paul? Then act in this manner 🡪
* *Paul is trying to instill in them the implications of unity that come with being a Christian. He wants them to understand the importance of unity among those of “like precious faith.” This is accomplished through the same mindset that Christ had – humility/selflessness.*
  + **(v. 2)** – They are to be in a state of oneness toward each other. This is emphasized in the next verses 🡪
  + **(v. 3) –** Selflessness!
    - Do not act in a spirit of pride, and boastfulness. This reflects a mindset that looks to self and not others.
    - When we esteem others better than ourselves we give them a sense of value. We treat them in such a way that shows our thought of them being important to us.
    - Esteem others better than yourself is always possible. (cf. 1 Corinthians 12:20-26 – No matter our thought of importance about ourselves we must recognize our need for each other. As we are all part of one body, we all serve a purpose, and we must esteem each other as being highly important no matter our own abilities.)
  + **(v. 4)** – Each of us has specific needs. Paul is not suggesting we forget about those things. Rather, prioritize other’s needs above yours.

**(v. 5-8 – The perfect example of such a mindset is seen in the actions exhibited by Christ Jesus.)**

* **(v. 6)** – *“form of God”* – form – *morphē* – shape; figuratively nature.
  + Jesus IS God. This has always been His nature (cf. Colossians 2:9 – Godhead – Divinity; John 1:1, 14 – When the Word came in the flesh He did not stop being what He was before – the Word who is God.)
* *“robbery to be equal with God”* – robbery – to grasp; snatch; seize.
  + Jesus is divine, so He did not view being in heaven something to be held on to.
  + **(v. 7)** Thus, He *“made Himself of no reputation.”*
    - Reputation – kenoō – to make empty; make void or vain.
    - Of what did Christ empty Himself?
      * Reputation is a good translation. When a person has a reputation they have a state of mind in which they see themselves in a certain position or destination.
      * Jesus’ reputation which He gave up was that being God He has the right to be on a throne of glory in heaven.
      * Thus, He emptied Himself of that position of equality (in destination) with God. (He was still God, just God in the flesh, not God in heaven.)
        + (cf. Isaiah 40:22). (cf. Matthew 17:2; Isaiah 53:2)
      * He took on the form (nature) of a servant when He came in the likeness (form; resemblance) of man.
        + The nature of His deity did not change. But with the reality of His humanity came His purpose of becoming such – to be a servant (thus He was in the nature of a servant – cf. Matthew 20:28 – He did not merely look like a servant, He WAS a servant).

Jesus was truly a man while maintaining His unchanging nature as God (cf. 1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 2:14; 1 John 4:2-3; 2 John 7).

If He was not truly a man He could not serve in the needed capacity in which He served.

* + - * + When He ascended He was exalted (v. 9-10) and was no longer a servant. (He then was on an equal plain (destination) with God as He was in His pre-incarnate dwelling.)
* **(v. 8)** – His ultimate act of servitude was in His death on the cross.
  + His servanthood was necessary in order for us to be in fellowship with Him (cf. John 13:4-8). We are also to be servants in order to be in fellowship with Him (cf. v. 12-17).
  + In fact, it was the will of God that Jesus die (cf. Matthew 26:39; Hebrews 10:5-10).
    - This will Jesus’ obeyed (cf. Hebrews 5:7-8).
  + His greatest sign of humility was not in death in general, but the type of death He experienced – i.e. *“even the death of the cross.”*
    - This death was not ordinary. It was shameful, and humiliating.
    - It was described as cursed (cf. Galatians 3:13; Deuteronomy 21:23).
    - “The Greek orator Cicero called it ‘the most cruel and abominable form of punishment.’”
      * Considered the death of a slave, and was abhorrent in the eyes of the Romans. No Roman would be required to die in this way (cf. 1 Corinthians 1:23).
    - But Jesus looked past the negative to the positive of others (cf. Hebrews 12:2).
      * There was shame in the cross, but Jesus humbled Himself under that to serve us! (cf. v. 3-4)
      * The Joy set before Him was the bringing many sons to glory – salvation of our souls (cf. Hebrews 2:10).