

LIVING THE CHRISTLIFE
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Having the Mind of Christ Philippians 2:1-11

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ² complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

—Philippians 2:1-11 (ESV)

v 1 – “So if there is any encouragement...”

Paul is speaking rhetorically, as in when we might say “If you care about me at all...”

It is the strongest appeal, meaning if these qualities and actions exist at all, then you must do what I am about to say

And look at the qualities:

encouragement in Christ

comfort from love

any fellowship (*koinōnia*) in the Spirit

any affection and compassion

v 2 – “complete my joy...”

This is not the point of it all, Paul is adding to his appeal

“being of the same mind...”

The love and unity of the Church is the very witness of the Church (not just congregations)

Aside from direct worship and service to Christ, it is the highest charge of the Church

The Church is a community, a body—not an enterprise

The unity described here is impossible without Christ

We find unity seeking Christ and His kingdom above all else

Such unity depends upon the spiritual walk of every Christian

For any congregation, perfect unity may always be a challenge—but some congregations are not even in the ballpark—they operate more like a club than a church

vv 3-4 – “Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit [vainglory]...”

A key guiding statement

No “big-shots” or “know-it-all” or persons determined to get their way will ever be a part of this unity

The key: “In humility count others more significant than yourselves.”

This does not mean we pretend that everyone has the same callings or expertise—
or that every person has the same role in every decision
It is a matter of love and of valuing each person as is appropriate for a close
family and for the body of Christ
Our attitude is to be that of serving God and serving one another

“look not only to his own interests...”

The whole phrase, more lit. “in humility, esteeming one another more than themselves,
each considering not [just] the things of themselves, but also each considering the
things of others.”

This can be a challenge—especially for those who have their own strong interests and
who may prefer “leading” to “serving”

The Mind of Christ

vv 5-8 – “Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus...”

Can anyone dispute that we should follow the example of Jesus?

“which [is] also in Christ Jesus” – It is our *because* it is His—Jesus gives us His Spirit.

More than imitators, it is a life received from Him

Jesus’ act of humility was greater than anything we could ever do or be called upon to do
We can hardly even imagine what it was for Jesus to come in the flesh—taking the form
of a servant

And in the flesh, He was despised by the world, unrecognized by a sinful world deserving
simply to be destroyed

Beyond that, Jesus himself was obedient unto God, even unto death on the cross

This—this!—is the mind of Christ—the **same mind** that Paul teaches us that we should
have among ourselves.

The Lordship of Christ

Jesus’ name is above every name.

Not some names, or many names, or most names. Every name.

Name itself—and the authority that name represents.

Jesus Christ has no peers. He is not one among many or even among several.

Every knee will bow at the name of Jesus—some in worship, others who are compelled by His
authority—

In heaven and on earth—all created beings worship the name of Jesus

“under the earth” (*katachthonios*; subterranean)—even the devils and the condemned will
bow at the name of Jesus

We see even in Jesus’ earthly ministry that the demons knew him, feared him, and
obeyed him

And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord

This is not an opinion or a “religious belief”

This is a fact—and it is our honor and our charge to proclaim it

To the Glory of God the Father

All that is done in, through, and by the Son is unto the glory of the Father.