

"Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 2:5)

I. Having the Proper Outlook

- a. Our outlook determines outcome. If the outlook is selfish, the action will be divisive and destructive. *Do nothing from selfish ambition...* instead
- b. The "mind (*phroneo*) of Christ" means the attitude Christ exhibited. The believer's attitude should be the same as Christ Jesus.
- c. To demonstrate the kind of humble attitude we are to have, Paul presents Jesus as our example.
- d. Jesus did not think of Himself, He thought of others. His attitude was that of unselfish concern.
- e. The word *form* means "the outward expression of inward nature" (v.6).
 1. The *form of God* has nothing to do with shape or size, because God is Spirit (John 4:24).
 2. This means before time Jesus Christ was God. The text says, "Jesus did count *His equality a thing to be grasped* (as a privilege)." (Read Col 1:15; Heb 1:1-3)
 3. Jesus did not need anything from us. He had all the glory and praise of heaven. With the Father, and the Spirit, He reigned over the universe.
- f. What did Christ empty Himself of? He voluntarily and totally allowed Himself to experience human pain, emotion, hunger, anguish, sadness and eventually death. Yet, He did not lose control.

II. The Glorious King Becomes a Humble Servant

- a. Paul traced the steps of our mighty King who became the greatest servant.
 1. Jesus stepped out of glory and made no reputation for Himself.
 2. He took the form of a bondservant without prestige.
 3. The *appearance of man*. Think about it, Jesus could have made Himself very attractive, strong in appearance or tall.
- b. If anyone ever had the right to insist on his rights or require privilege, it was Jesus.
- c. He did not cling to divine entitlements, but willingly laid aside personal glory.
- d. Jesus did not cease to be God. God cannot cease to be God. Just like you cannot cease to be a man or woman, it is in your nature.
- e. Jesus did not merely take on humanity, Paul says, *He humbled Himself to the point of death*. Not just any death, but a humiliating and public death on the cross.
- f. The death of Christ was nothing less than Christ experiencing hell for His people, so they would never have to experience hell themselves.
- g. This was public execution, to defame His name and to stain His memory. Satan tried to make Jesus an after thought, but His humility brought Him great glory.
- h. Jesus showed both obedience and love to the uttermost, then God exalted Him.

III. Application and Encouragement

- a. Nothing cuts across the grain of human nature quite so much as being called to humility and putting others first.
- b. Humility is not a religious or doctrinal exercise, but a practical attitude.
- c. One day all will submit, all will confess, but not all will be saved.
- d. Let's continue to meditate on the wonderful act of sacrifice Christ did. All for us!
- e. *True and lasting greatness comes as we humble ourselves.*