

The Book of Philippians

“The Mentality of Christ”

Text: Philippians 2:1-11

Unity Through Humility:

The Mindset of Christ is expressed in unity, humility, and concern for others.

- In the ASV, KJV, NKJV, and AMP, Paul uses the word “if” four times, but in Greek, it does not imply doubt (Phil. 2:1-2).
- Walking in love and maintaining unity among believers are essential to the impact of the gospel message (John 13:34-35).
- Christians who operate in disunity prompt nonbelievers to question whether they are disciples of Christ and whether the gospel message is authentic.

Paul emphasized the importance of focusing on others rather than oneself (Phil. 2:3-4).

The Humility of Christ:

Paul instructed the Philippians to adopt Jesus’ way of thinking (Phil. 2:5 NLT)

- The New King James Version uses the word “Let,” which means “to allow or permit.” It is intentional and refers to an act of our will.

Paul describes in detail the mindset of Christ (Phil. 2:6-8)

- Christ demonstrated humility by emptying Himself of His privileges (John 1:14).
- Christ demonstrated humility by living a life of obedience (Matt. 26:39; John 5:30, 6:38; Heb. 5:8).
- Christ demonstrated selflessness in His dealings on the cross (2 Cor. 5:19).
- Jesus encouraged His disciples to follow His example, and Paul urges the Philippians to do the same (Mark 10:45).

Jesus was devoid of arrogance and self-exaltation.

- We, too, are to demonstrate the humility (James 4:10) and selflessness (Phil. 2:3-4) that Jesus showed. This is evident in our attitude toward God (1 Pet. 5:6) and toward others (Rom. 12:10).

The Exaltation of Christ:

God openly rewarded Jesus for His obedience and sacrificial death on the cross (Phil. 2:9-11).

- Jesus holds the highest and most exalted position in the entire universe. No one or anything is higher than He is (1 Tim. 3:16).
- Exaltation is the reward for humility and selflessness (Prov. 22:4; 29:23).
- Humility and selflessness reflect the mentality of Christ and should be embraced by every believer.

Call to Action:

1. Choose unity by refusing to let offense and pride divide you from others.
2. Choose humility by placing others' needs and interests before your own.
3. Change your mindset by feeding your mind with God's Word until Christ's mentality becomes your own mentality.