



Grace Life Church
of Dallas

The doctrines of grace, the life of the Spirit, to the glory of God

Philippians 2:1-8

Unity in the Church Part 4

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Philippians 2:1-8

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.

Philippians 2:1-8

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.

V1-2 Encouragement & Understanding

- **Church Unity:** Paul is calling us (church) to unity, scripture repeatedly warns regarding unity, Jesus prayed concerning unity, & God is glorified in our unity.
- We are unified (supernaturally), and we are called to **maintain** (Eph 4:3) the unity (responsibility)
- **V1 Motivated us towards unity:** because of the *encouragement in Christ, comfort from love, participation in the Spirit and affection & sympathy*
- **V2 Further defined unity:** *being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind*

V3-4 “How” Regarding Unity

Guard against selfish ambition/rivalry or conceit

– “My way” and “For my praise”

Humility is the key:

- Seeing yourself in light of the gospel as the chief of all sinners (under amazing grace)
- Counting others more significant than yourself
- Looking out for others interests (not only our own)

In order for there to be unity (maintained) we must all be continually clothed in humility

Looking to Christ, Our Example

Have this mind (attitude) among yourselves which is yours in Christ Jesus (was also in Christ)

- If we want to: “*do nothing from rivalry or conceit, count others more significant than ourselves, look out for the interest of others*” and thus display humility, then we must have this mind
- Our thinking produces an attitude in us which determines how we relate to others
 - **2 Corinthians 10:5** *We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and **take every thought captive to obey Christ***
- What Paul is telling us is that Christ perfectly exemplified the humility we must have (humility of mind v8)
- When we see selfishness rise up in us, the issue is what we are believing in that moment (typically “I deserve”)

The Mind of Christ our Example

V6 who though He was in the form of God (existed), did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped

- Keep in mind, Paul is revealing the humility of Jesus , and he begins with the understanding of Jesus being God (although in human flesh)
- *Form of God-appearance, shape; figuratively nature*
 - **John 1:1** *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 14 And the Word became flesh & dwelt among us*
 - **John 8:58-59** *Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am. So they picked up stones to throw at him"*
 - **Colossians 1:15** *He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.*
 - **Hebrews 1:2-3** *but in these last days He has spoken to us by his Son, whom He appointed the heir of all things, through whom also He created the world. 3He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of His nature, and He upholds the universe by the word of His power.*
 - Jesus is God in the flesh (He is fully divine and fully man)

The Mind of Christ our Example

V6 who though He was in the form of God (existed), did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped

- *did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped*
 - *Grasped-retaining or holding on to*
 - Jesus did not give up His divine attributes (God-ness) while in the flesh, but rather in humility gave up His divine rights (He did not hold on to His rights)
 - Remember again, Paul is showing Jesus humility
- Jesus, who is eternally and continually existent as God (even while in the flesh), did not hang on to His rights/privileges as God

Jesus is worthy of the worship, adoration, praise, and obedience the Father is due, because as the Father is God, Jesus is God (This is Paul's 1st point)

- In humility, Jesus set aside His rights (If anyone is worthy of rights, and due respect, honor and love it is Jesus)
- He is infinitely worthy and yet He willfully gives up His divine rights for the glory of the Father

The Mind of Christ our Example

V7 but emptied Himself, by taking on the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men

What did Jesus empty Himself of?

Not His divine nature (God-ness), but again His rights to be treated as The King of King and Lord of Lords

- To glorify the Father, Jesus empties Himself
- To glorify the Father, we must humble ourselves as Christ did

Not only that, but Jesus *took on the form of a servant (bondservant)*

- **Matthew 20:28** *Even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.*

For unity sake (Glory of God) we must take on the form of a servant

- *V26-27 whoever would be great among you must be your servant, 27and whoever would be first among you must be your slave*

The Mind of Christ our Example

V7 but emptied Himself, by taking on the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men

Being born in the likeness of men

- Jesus was fully human (and fully God) but without sin (hungry, tired, pain, temptation, death)
- If Jesus isn't God in the flesh, this point of Paul's (to demonstrate Jesus humility) carries no weight
- But as God and Creator of all (including man), to come as the creation to save is an amazing demonstration of humility

V8 And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross

- Jesus was seen by most as mere man (*found in human form*)
- *Jesus humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death*
 - Have we drawn a line to the level of obedience we will go to?

The Mind of Christ our Example

V8 And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross

- Shouldn't we be amazed that it says, God humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death?
 - When we consider what it says it is amazing (God, Humbled Himself, Died, Me)
 - **John 10:18** *No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father*
 - **Romans 5:7** *For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die*

Even death on a cross

-The most heinous, shameful way for a human to be killed (Cross)

The Mind of Christ our Example

Did we notice the progression of the humility in Christ?

Set His mind to humble Himself in that being God, He gave up His privileges as God, emptying Himself of His rights, took the form of a servant, became flesh, and died on a cross.

Our call to humility is nothing compared to the humility demonstrated by Jesus (But what a perfect example for us)

- As we struggle to humble ourselves to love and serve others, let us remember our great example in Jesus Christ
- When the temptation of selfish ambition, conceit and putting our needs before others comes knocking in our minds, let's take those thought captive and subject them to v5-8 and by grace humble ourselves as we see Jesus love and humility