

**NO REPUTATION**  
**September 20, 2015**  
**Philippians 2:1-30**

**“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men.” Philippians 2:5-7a**

This instruction was given to a congregation that seems to have had some dissension (2:3; 4:2). “Only by pride cometh contention” (Prov. 13:10), thus the solution to interpersonal conflicts is humility. No one demonstrated humility more than Jesus Christ, so His example is set forth: “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.”

Jesus Christ alone had legitimate cause for pride: he was perfect, all-knowing, all-wise and almighty. Yet no one was ever more humble than Christ. He was “in the form of God,” meaning that He was the very representation of God in human flesh. Thus, He could justly have claimed every divine privilege and prerogative. He could have demanded absolute submission and veneration from every person.

But he did not grasp after this, even though it was His to claim. Rather, He “made himself of no reputation” – literally – he emptied himself. This recalls Old Testament symbols and prophecies. Israel was instructed to bring a drink offering unto God, a beverage which was then poured out before the Lord—a picture of Christ humbly forsaking His rights; pouring out His life.

David foretold Jesus’ crucifixion and suffering: “I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my hart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels” (Psa. 22:14). Isaiah wrote, “. . . he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors” (53:12).

Paul named four things that constituted Christ emptying Himself. 1) He did not grasp after the divine glory or privilege that was His (v. 6). 2) He “took upon him the form of a servant and 3) was made in the likeness of men” (v. 7). And, 4) He “humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross” (v. 8).

What contrast between human pride and Christ’s humility! The only one with legitimate cause for pride had humility unmixed with pride. Yet sin-defiled man, who is debtor to God for everything, fosters pride when repentance is his only legitimate thought and action.

Scripture gives strong warning against pride. Pride resulted in Lucifer’s expulsion from heaven (Isa. 14:12-15). Satan appealed to human pride when tempting Eve in Eden (Gen. 3:3). “Six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: a proud look, a lying tongue . . .” (Prov. 6:16, 17). “Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall” (Prov. 16:18). “The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God” (Psa. 10:4). The psalmist described the wicked thus: “pride compasseth them about as a chain” (73:6).

Pride is self-deceiving. It is a natural expression of what we are, so natural that we are not even conscious of our guilt. One may plan to commit a theft, but no one plans to be haughty, it’s just the way we are. Indeed, it binds us like a chain. The only proper response is continual repentance, emptying ourselves of every impulse of “self,” that all praise might be given unto Christ. He emptied Himself for us. “Let this mind be in you.”