

# THE MIND OF CHRIST IN YOU

Phil 2:3-8

## INTRODUCTION:

- A. In Phil 2:3-8 Paul teaches some very important lessons and uses the example of Christ to do so
- B. Paul commends the spirit of lowliness as an antidote to strife and vainglory
- C. These remarks were intended for those who were children of God, although it is apparent that the same disposition must be possessed by one who is not a Christian if he would be saved from his sins
- D. The mind (example or disposition) of the Lord is one that Christians should study and imitate, also those out of Christ must adopt these principles in their life to have salvation
- E. Look at some things characteristic of the mind of Christ

## DISCUSSION:

### I. JESUS HAD A SELF - DENYING DISPOSITION Phil 2:6,7

- A. To be unselfish is to exclude self insofar as self - will is concerned
  1. Not that we should neglect own salvation Phil 2:12
  2. But disregard the way self would dictate Phil 2:3,4
- B. Paul illustrates Christ's unselfishness Phil 2:6,7
  1. Existed in form of God (Deity), but did not view his being on equality with God as something to be held on to or retained
  2. He laid aside his heavenly position and glory for us Phil 2:7
- C. Jesus denied Himself the glory and honor of being with God Phil 2:7
  1. Made himself of no reputation, made in the likeness of men
  2. Was not special in a physical way Isa 53:2
- D. We must deny ourselves Matt 16:24,25
  1. First step in following Christ is in a sense a backward step
  2. One of self-abnegation or a crushing of one's own will
  3. Cannot be any rivalry or competition - Christ said "I came to do thy will O God" Heb 10:7; Jhn 6:38
- E. How many times do we disregard our own position in order to help someone else or the cause of Christ
- F. How many times do we deny ourselves: pleasure, leisure time, money, etc. in order to do the Lord's work

### II. CHRIST HAD A WILLINGNESS TO SERVE Phil 2:7

- A. Became like a servant
  1. Notice the use of the word "form" in vs 6 & 7

2. He maintained the "form" of v. 6 and took on the "form" of v. 7
  3. We do the opposite - we maintain human "form" but we take on the spiritual nature (form) of deity
- B. Christ came not to be ministered unto but to minister that is to serve Matt 20:28
  - C. Christians should be servants of righteousness Rom 6:16-22
    1. Christians must be willing to fulfill the will of Christ – that is to serve Him
    2. We serve Him by serving others Matt 25:31-46
    3. Those not Christians must become willing to serve

### III. CHRIST HAD A SPIRIT OF HUMILITY Phil 2:8

- A. Even after Jesus had manifested his unselfishness, self-denial and service; he further humbled himself
  1. Death by crucifixion on the cross
  2. The most humiliating event to happen to anyone much less the sinless Son of God
- B. To be Christian one must maintain a spirit of contriteness realizing our sinfulness in God's sight Phil 2:3
  1. Be lowly in mind
  2. Esteem others better than ourselves

### IV. CHRIST HAD A WILLINGNESS TO OBEY GOD Phil 2:8

- A. Obeyed His Father's will which purposed His death
  1. His purpose was to do the Father's will Jhn 6:38
  2. He learned obedience Heb 5:8,9
- B. Any person who would please God must learn to obey Him
- C. There is no substitute for obedience to God, as Samuel points out to Saul in 1Sam 15:20-23

## CONCLUSION:

- A. To please God, we must develop the same mind (disposition) that was in Christ Phil 2:5
- B. The one stubbornly refusing to heed God's word does so out of arrogance that they are sufficient of themselves
- C. The person presuming his way is as good as the Lord's does so from pride in their ability to direct their own steps Jer 10:23
- D. These will never obey until they humble their hearts to yield to His will and forget their own
- E. We must learn to deny our selfish will, be willing to serve with a humble spirit in obedience to what God commands
- F. Have you; and are you doing this?