

**THE MIND OF CHRIST**  
**Philippians 2:1-11**

**Introduction:**

1. Have you ever heard anyone say?
  - a. “Nice guys finish last.”
  - b. “If you don’t look out for number one, no one else will.”
  - c. “You’ve got to sell yourself if you are ever going to get ahead in this world.”
  - d. “The way to the top is by stepping on those who get in your way.”
2. Such statements reveal the mind-set of this world.
3. The teaching of Jesus is the very opposite!
4. In Philippians, chapter two, Paul sets forth the mind of Christ for Christians to follow.
  - a. Some in the church at Philippi had the mind-set of the world.
  - b. Paul commanded them (and us):

“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.”
5. Philippians 2, like First Corinthians 13, is praised by many, but practiced by few.

**Discussion:**

- I. WE MUST HAVE THE MIND OF CHRIST (vv. 1-4).
  - A. Paul based his appeal that we have the mind of Christ on four conditions:
    1. “If there is any consolation in Christ....”
      - a. “Consolation” is “comfort” or “encouragement.”
      - b. There is great comfort in Christ.

- 1) He died for our sins (1 Corinthians 15:3).
- 2) He ever lives to make intercession for us (Hebrews 7:25).
- 3) He is coming again for us (1 Thess. 4:15-18).

2. “If there is any comfort of love....”

- a. We love God “because He first loved us” (1 John 4:19).
- b. We know God loves us for “He sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins” (1 John 4:10).

3. “If there is any fellowship of the Spirit....”

- a. “Fellowship” comes from koinonia meaning mutual participation, sharing, or partnership.
- b. The fellowship of the Spirit is the fellowship that comes from the Spirit’s teaching which we hold in common.

4. “If there is any affection and mercy....”

- a. God has shown His mercy for us by sending His Son to die for our sins.
- b. Paul wrote of this mercy to Titus:

“But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit...” (Tit. 3:4,5).

**B. Since these four conditions prevail, Paul then makes an appeal based on them (vv. 2-4).**

1. “Fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.”

**“Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment” (1 Corinthians 1:10).**

**2. “Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit but in lowliness of mind, let each esteem others better than himself.”**

- a. The church is not the place for ego trips, control freaks or dictators such as Diotrefes (3 Jno. 9,10).**
- b. It is not a place for self-esteem, but rather for esteeming others better than ourselves.**

**3. “Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interest of others.”**

- a. We have a responsibility to our fellow man for we are “our brother’s keeper” (Genesis 4:9).**
- b. The church is a body and we are all members of one another (Romans 12:4,5; 1 Corinthians 12:12-30).**

## **II. WE MUST FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE OF CHRIST (vv. 5-11).**

**A. To have the mind of Christ is to think like Christ, act like Christ, and become like Christ.**

**B. Paul uses the incarnation (God becoming man) of Christ to illustrate the mind of Christ.**

- 1. He was “in the form of God” (John 1:1-3).**
- 2. He was “equal with God” (John 10:30; 17:21).**
- 3. He “counted not the being on an equality with God a thing to be grasped (held on to), but emptied Himself” (ASV).**
- 4. We will never know or understand what Christ gave up in order to become man.**
- 5. He became man in order to die for our sins (Heb. 2:14,15).**

**C. Note the steps in the humiliation of Christ:**

1. He “emptied” Himself of Divine privileges to become man.
2. He came not as a conquering king, or a man of wealth and power, but as a bondservant (slave).
3. He subjected Himself to the limitations of the flesh.
4. He further humbled Himself by subjecting Himself to death on the cross.

**D. Note the elevation of the Christ by the Father:**

1. God has highly exalted Him.
  - a. He exalted Christ to His right hand (Acts 2:33).
  - b. He is “King of kings and Lord of lords” (Rev. 19:16).
  - c. All authority has been given to Him (Matthew 28:18).
  - d. He is worthy of Heaven and earth’s praises and thanksgiving (Revelation 5:8-14).
2. God has given Him “the name above every name.”
  - a. “Name” stands for “reputation,” such as, “He has a good name, etc.”
  - b. Every knee should bow to the Lord Jesus Christ.
  - c. Every knee will bow to Him at the Last Day!
  - d. Every tongue should confess Christ now; every tongue will confess Him at the Last Day!

“‘As I live’, says the Lord, ‘Every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall confess to God.’”  
(Romans 14:11 quoted from Isaiah 45:23).

**Conclusion:**

1. The theme of Philippians is “joy.”
2. The way to achieve true joy is spelled out in a simple acrostic:
  - a. “J” is Jesus first.
  - b. “O” is others second.
  - c. “Y” is yourself last.