

**A Church for Others**  
**“A Spirit of Servanthood Abounds”**  
**Philippians 2:5-8**

**Introduction:**

1. Do you consider yourself a follower of Jesus Christ? What is a local church, biblically? It is a group of people who are united by their faith in Jesus Christ and their desire to follow Him. Do you desire to be a follower of Jesus Christ?
2. A well-known verse is 1 Peter 2:21, which talks about following in the steps of Christ.
  - We think of following Christ in terms of action (what I do, how I act, what I say, where I go).
  - Many times we think, “I have to discipline myself to act like Christ and imitate Him.”
3. But remember, attitude is what determines action.
4. If we want to be followers of Christ, the starting place is Philippians 2:5.
  - It begins with right thinking, and the right attitude.
  - This is what determines what kind of person you will be and what kind of behavior you will display.
5. What is the mind of Christ? According to Philippians 2:6-8, it is a spirit of **servanthood**.
6. This attitude is the key to everything in our lives (marriage, relationships, friendships, work, church, parenting, etc.). It is also the key to any church becoming a church for others. There is absolutely no way for our church to become a church for others if our members do not possess the mind of Christ: a spirit of servanthood.
7. Every believer must possess a spirit of servanthood like our Savior. When a person possesses a spirit of servanthood, what does it look like? Philippians 2:6-8 has the answer.

**First, a team spirit**

1. As I've said before, the church is very much like a team. On any team, there are two different kinds of members:
  - Team players - It's all about the team winning and accomplishing its goals.
  - Me players - It's all about me and my individual goals, my stats, my position, and how I look.
2. Jesus was the ultimate team player!
  - Notice verses 6-7. This means that Christ wasn't on the right hand of the Father, hanging on to His position, His glory, and His privileges.
  - Jesus forsook the worship of the saints and angels in heaven; He left the glories of heaven and came to the earth to suffer and ultimately die.
  - Why did He do this? He did it for the good of the team.

- It wasn't about His glory, His comfort, and His position. It was about bringing other people to glory. He laid aside His privileges for the good of others. Hebrews 2:9-10
3. Are you a team player? Would other people characterize you this way at work, at home, and at church?
  4. The opposite of a team spirit is a spirit of selfishness.
  5. "A Christ-like spirit of servanthood" means "a team spirit."

### **Second, a humble spirit**

1. We don't like pride when we see it in others, but sometimes we can be blind to our **own** pride. Someone said that pride is a strange disease; it makes everyone sick except the person who has it.
2. The Bible says that Christ humbled Himself. A spirit of servanthood always shows up as a humble spirit. Philippians 2:3
  - Humility is an attitude of the mind and heart. It starts within and works its way out.
  - Humility is a freedom from arrogance. "*Vainglory*" carries the idea of "an exaggerated self view; a person in love with himself; conceited."
3. Humility is a recognition that all that we have, and all that we are, comes from God.
  - Pride says, "It is all about me and what I want."
  - Humility says, "It's all about God and His will." This is why Christ died for our sins. It was the Father's will.
4. A spirit of humility says, "How can I serve others, be a blessing to others, and minister to others?"
  - A spirit of pride says, "How can others make me happy, help me, and serve me? How can I get others to do what I want them to do?"
5. A spirit of arrogance destroys relationships.
  - An arrogant, prideful spirit has destroyed many more marriages than alcohol or drugs. It is what destroys friendships and churches. Proverbs 13:10
6. If you are God's child, God is working to develop a Christ-like spirit of humility in you. God can't use prideful people. 1 Peter 5:5
7. I know that in our flesh we tend to hate and despise trials and problems, but God can take those adverse circumstances and work through them to correct a pride problem.
8. "A Christ-like spirit of servanthood" means "a humble spirit."

### **Third, an obedient spirit**

1. Have you ever been around kids that won't listen? Aren't they a joy to be around? Those kids grow up into adults, and most of the time they don't listen any better as adults than they did as kids.
2. This is why many of us struggle with having a spirit of servanthood. We are accustomed to getting our own way. How does this translate into life's situations?

- People bounce from job to job, church to church, friendship to friendship, and marriage to marriage.
- A rebellious and unsubmitive spirit is a terrible thing.
3. If anybody had a right to go His own way and do His own thing, it was Christ. Yet look at verse 8. He became "*obedient unto death.*"
    - This word "obedient" means "attentively listening; submissive."
    - Christ's spirit of servanthood showed in that He listened and was submissive to the Father, even to the point of death.
  4. Are you ready and waiting to listen and obey when God speaks to you through His Word?

### **In Conclusion:**

1. Think about this. If a Christ-like spirit of servanthood abounded in you, what impact would this have on your home life, your marriage, your church, your work place, your friendships, etc.?
2. Remember, your attitude determines your actions. Do you exhibit the mind of Christ? The mind of Christ is one of servanthood, and a spirit of servanthood means:
  - A team spirit
  - A humble spirit
  - An obedient spirit
3. Satan will say to you, "Look out for number one, do your own thing, get what you want, it is all about you, you're the man, nobody's going to tell you what to do," etc.
4. But remember, Satan is a liar. This is not the way of Christ. It is not the mind of Christ. The end of Satan's lies is destruction, misery, contention, and strife.
5. But where does a spirit of servanthood lead? Look at the example of Christ. vs. 9-11; cf. 1 Peter 5:6