

What was the Mind of Christ? Philippians 2:5-8

Introduction:

1. One of the most mind-boggling events in history is when Jesus Christ condescended from His eternal position in heaven and was born into this world as a man so that He might live and then eventually die for our sins.
2. This is one of the greatest texts in the Bible that describes this awesome and incredible deed. But it also allows us to see a glimpse of Christ's attitude when He descended to earth. Through this text we get to see into the mind of Christ.
3. Verse 5 commands, *"Let this mind be in you..."* In other words, the same attitude that Christ possessed when He was incarnated as a man to walk this earth is the same attitude that is to dwell in our minds.
4. Your attitude will determine what kind of person you will be and what kind of behavior you will display. **Proverbs 23:7** - *"For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he..."* **cf. Philippians 4:8**
5. This morning, we will observe from this text who Christ was before He ever graced this earth with His presence, and also we will see **what** He did when He arrived on this earth. We will also discover that it was His attitude that linked the two together.

First, in His person, Christ was God. vs. 6

1. The Bible declares about Christ, *"Who being in the form of God..."*
 - This does not refer to shape or size. **John 4:24** teaches us that God is a spirit.
 - This is teaching that Jesus Christ eternally existed in the form of God, equal with God the Father in every way. Jesus Christ wasn't inferior in any way to God the Father.
 - Jesus was, is, and always will be fully divine.
2. Philip said to Jesus, *"Lord, show us the Father..."* Jesus answered and said, *"Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? He that hath seen me hath seen the Father."* **John 14:8-9**
3. Please understand that Jesus Christ was **not** simply a good man, a mighty prophet, a great religious leader, a miracle worker, or some kind of creature that God created between the angelic creatures and God.
4. Jesus is the Creator of all things (**John 1:1-3**). Jesus, in His person, **was** God, **is** God, and always **will be** God.

Second, in His attitude, He was a servant. vs. 7

1. Verse 7 declares that Christ *"took upon him the form of a servant."*
2. Jesus' attitude was one of a servant! Isn't this amazing? If anyone was in a position to demand that He be served, it was Christ.
3. Jesus was God, yet He wasn't selfishly clinging to **His** position.
 - Verse 6b - *"thought it not robbery to be equal with God."*
 - This means that Christ was not on the right hand of the Father, hanging on to His position and His glory. God the Father did not have to coerce Jesus to leave the glory of heaven and come to earth and be born in a lowly manger.

- Jesus forsook the worship of saints and angels in heaven and submitted to poverty, misunderstanding, unbelief, false accusations, and every sort of reviling and persecuting by sinful men. Why did He do this? He possessed a servant's heart.
4. Jesus was God, yet He wasn't selfishly clinging to **His** privileges.
 - Verse 7 - "*But made himself of no reputation...*"
 - Jesus enjoyed all divine rights and privileges in heaven, yet He emptied Himself of all of these. He, who created and owned everything, forsook everything.
 - He came to this earth and was poor. He owned no land or house, gold or jewels. He owned no business, no boat, and no horse. He had to ride into Jerusalem on a borrowed donkey. He refused any property, any advantages or any special service to Himself.
 - He completely waived His rights as the Son of God and became a servant.
Matthew 20:28; 2 Corinthians 8:9
 5. But let's read verse 5 again. Isn't that sobering? The attitude Jesus possessed (that of a servant), God says, "You possess the same attitude, the same mind."
 6. We tend to allow our attitudes to get so twisted and warped. We believe the higher the position and the more important we are, the more others should serve **us**, but Jesus had different ideas. **Matthew 20:26-27**
 7. If Jesus Christ, the Lord of heaven and earth, wasn't above having a servant's heart, then why do we think that we are?
 8. What a difference it would make in our relationships if we would exercise the mind of Christ (marriage, work, church).

Third, in His actions, He was sacrificial. vs. 8

1. Attitude is what determines action. In His attitude, Christ was a servant; therefore, in His actions, Christ was sacrificial.
2. He was made in the likeness of men (vs. 7). Do you realize what this took?
 - Jesus was God, in perfect and unbroken fellowship with God the Father from eternity past. Now to leave the glory of heaven and become a little baby, a human being - that is the most profound, possible humiliation.
3. Verse 8 says, "*And being found in fashion as a man...*"
 - You and I have no idea of the incredible sacrifice involved in this. When Christ was born in Bethlehem, He entered into a permanent union with humanity from which there could be no escape. He humbled Himself and became a servant for you and me.
4. Verse 8 states that He "*...became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.*"
 - Here we have the ultimate sacrifice. The flesh and blood He took on Himself, He then offered Himself on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins. **Romans 5:8**
 - The Father called upon Christ to do this and He obeyed willingly as a servant and died for us. He sacrificed that perfect fellowship with the Father by becoming sin for us on the cross. Why did He do this? So that we might be saved.
5. How could the One who is God sacrifice Himself for sinners who don't even deserve it? Because of His attitude. He had the mind of a servant. Remember, your attitude is what determines your actions.

6. Is your attitude "me first" or "others first?" Aren't you glad Jesus' attitude was "others first?" Verse 5 says *"Let this mind..."*
- Apply to marriage - **Ephesians 5:25** - "Me, sacrifice for her? How do you expect me to do that?" By simply changing your attitude and equipping yourself with the mind of Christ.
 - What is your attitude today towards God? Can you point to any area of your life where you sacrifice for God? **2 Corinthians 5:15**