

Philippians 2:5-11 (New International Version 1984)

⁵ Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,

⁷ but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death— even death on a cross!

⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name,

¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Good Morning First Baptist Members and Friends! Do you have any reason to praise God this morning? Do you need to praise Him for what He has already done in your life? Do you need to praise Him for what He has promised to do in your life? Do you need to praise Him for life and life more abundantly? I don't know about you, but I need to praise Him. Sometimes I don't take enough time to praise Him. I am worried about the next thing I have to do. I am thinking about what I have forgotten to do. I am focused on the people He gave me to lead and not Him. So let's just take a minute and praise Him. Praise Him! Praise Him! Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.

This morning we continue with our study of Paul's letter to the church at Philippi. The scholars tell us that Philippi was a city with great diversity and that diversity was reflected in the church. The church included Lydia a wealthy businesswoman from Asia who was a Jewish convert; a slave girl probably from Greece; and one of the Roman guards. With so many different backgrounds and socio-economic levels the church at Philippi would have had to work at maintaining unity. So in vv 3-4 of the 2nd chapter Paul teaches:

³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.

⁴ Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

In other words unity happens when you are interested in the other person and not just yourself.

One of things that I find interesting is that Paul is teaching about unity although there is no evidence in the letter or in Acts 16 that also teaches about the church at Philippi that there was disunity. So we find Paul serving as pastor and teacher and maybe even parent.

Warning about those things, which might occur, and providing a method to correct the situation should it occur. I wonder what would churches be like if everyone was as concerned about the interests of others and put others in front of themselves. Would we call those who are missing from church? Would we ask, "How are you doing?" and listen to the answer. Would there be a harmony within the church that others could see and feel? Just a thought!

After Paul provides direction on how to maintain unity he writes a sentence that should cause every Christian to pause:

⁵ Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

I invite you to pray with me and for me as I wrestle with this thought:

HOW IS MY ATTITUDE IMPACTING MY ALTITUDE?

SHALL WE PRAY!

Father, we your people come this morning in need of a Word from You, a Word, which will speak to our hearts, our minds and our spirits. We invite you to come into our midst this morning. Open the gates of heaven and allow us to have a look at how you wish us to live and interact with each other. Show us the areas of our lives that are in need of work. And show us the plan for the work needed. God of heaven and earth I ask you to use me to teach your people this morning. May the words of my mouth and meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and My Redeemer.

I was teaching the adult Sunday School class at FBC Chicago and one of my dear friends was in the class. I made the statement that it should be our desire to be like Christ in everything. After class she came to me and asked did I mean what I said. When I said yes, she walked away much like the rich young ruler. The thought of striving to be like Christ in every situation was more than she thought she could do.

I wonder if some of us are not in the same situation, we think it is too hard to be like Christ in every situation and so we just don't try.

Let us take a closer look at just what this 5th verse says:

⁵ Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

What does it mean that our attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus. In the English language we use attitude in a positive sense to speak about our way of thinking. So our **thinking** should be the same as that of Christ Jesus. We also use attitude to speak about our **actions**. So our actions should be like Christ Jesus. Finally, we use attitude to refer to our feelings. So our **feelings** should be as that of Christ Jesus.

Look again at what Paul is saying to us today. **Our thinking, our actions and our feelings should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.**

HOW IS MY ATTITUDE IMPACTING MY ALTITUDE?

I can hear someone say “Well, I can’t do that”. And you would be 100% correct. You can’t do that, I can’t do that, we can’t do that alone. But we don’t have to do it alone.

Let’s look at some more scripture:

Jesus says:

John 10:10

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10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; **I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.**

John 10:10

King James Version (KJV)

10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and **that they might have it more abundantly.**

Romans 6:4

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4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, **we too may live a new life.**

Galatians 6:15

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15 Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is a new creation.

We not only are a new creation in Christ Jesus, but Christ Jesus is available to us if we just chose to remain in Him.

John 15:4

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4 Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you

9 "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.

We have looked at an English language definition, we have considered the words of Jesus the Christ and Paul as they teach about who we have become when we accept Jesus as our Savior and are baptized in His name. But there is a piece that is missing we need to look again at the **attitude that was the attitude** of Jesus the Christ.

5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:(KJV)

5 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: (NIV 2011)

5-8 Think of yourselves the way Christ Jesus thought of himself.
(THE MESSAGE)

If you were a part of the Advent Bible Study you might remember that there is one word that flows through out the birth narrative. That word is humble.

Jesus was born in humble circumstances.

Luke 2:7

and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Jesus was born to humble parents. Listen to Mary describe her situation

Luke 1:48

for he has been mindful of the **humble** state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed,

Jesus' ministry was to humble people.

Sight to the blind
Health to the Leper
Healed the sick
Helps the lame to walk
Feeds the hungry

Jesus himself tells us that his attitude is humble

Matthew 11:29

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and **humble** in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

If we are to have the mindset of Christ we must be humble.

Humble is not about letting others take advantage of you.

Humble is not about letting some one hurt you.

Humble is not walking around with your head down.

Humble is looking for an opportunity to show Christ to others

Humble is about looking for the Christ in others

Humble is about praying before you speak and/or act

Humble is about considering if your way is the only way

and maybe doing it the way someone else would like to do it

Humble is checking your pride at the door and thinking about the good of others

Humble is remembering that God's will and God's word must never be compromised

For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but ³³the one who humbles ³⁴himself will be exalted.”

4:6 But he gives greater grace. Therefore it says, “***God opposes the proud, but he gives grace to the humble.***” ⁹

2:8 He humbled himself, by becoming obedient to the point of death
– even death on a cross!

what is biblical humility?

vv.2-5 “To be *like-minded* need not suggest a lock-step, cloned behavior. This is instead a call to have attitudes like Christ – loving and accepting one another, even when we’re different. In fact, God delights in our diversity; he made every single person unique. But we should all be *like-minded* in our obedience to Christ and in our care for others.”[\[2\]](#)