

LET THIS MIND

Philippians 2:5-8 ESV 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

- I believe one of the biggest blessings and simultaneous burdens of the believer is free will. I say this because, even on the other side of salvation, we have the privilege of choosing how we will live out our Christian experience. Some jump headlong into the realities of Christ, while others merely dip their toes into the proverbial shallow end of Christianity.
- In order for us to live a life that is worthy of Christ, we must adopt the mind of Christ as our own. This is the admonishment of the Apostle Paul to the church at Philippi, and it echoes to us today as we approach our text of focus.
- While God has saved your soul, He has given you the responsibility of renewing your mind (Romans 12:2). However, He has not given you this assignment without great resources. At our disposal are the Holy Spirit, the Word of God, the Christian community, and, finally, the example of Christ.
- When Paul tells The Church to let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus, he is literally calling us to adopt the mentality of Christ, and the most effective way to do so is to follow His example.
- So what does Christ do?
 1. **He emptied Himself** -this is a reference to **Isaiah 53:12**, which states *Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.* He literally emptied Himself so that He could take on the sins of the world. **We must pour out our souls in order to have the capacity for others.**

2. **He took the form of a servant** - many times, the only reason we take a lower position or role is because of our own insecurity, performance anxiety, or even the fear of failure. However, Christ was fully aware of His divinity. Yet He chose to lay down his privilege and pick up an apron. **God will honor our service when it is a choice and not a command or condition.**

3. **He humbled Himself** - Jesus displayed His humility by not regarding anything as beneath Him, even death. And because of His extreme humility, the Father exalted Him and bestowed upon Him the name above every name. **When we lay down our privilege and pursue humility, we will find ourselves running in step with our Lord and Savior, and His mind will become our mentality.**