

Weekly Sermon Discussion Guide
Choosing the Mind of Christ

September 29, 2024

The Choices Before Us

Philippians 2:5-13

KEY VERSES

⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was^[a] in Christ Jesus,

⁶ who, though he existed in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be grasped,

⁷ but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
assuming human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a human,

⁸ he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God exalted him even more highly
and gave him the name
that is above every other name,

¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

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

As we continue through this series on how we make decisions, we're reminded just how comfortable we as a culture have become critiquing other people. Technology makes it easier than ever for us to offer judgement on topics we know nothing about. When we focus too much on other peoples' actions, we remove the possibility for flourishing. When Paul bids us to "let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus," he knows all too well how quickly our minds can be led in the wrong direction. **How do you counter this culture of critiquing when faced with it in person or online? What helps prevent you from getting caught up in this habit of judging?**

Verses 6-11 are often referred to as the "Christ hymn," lyrics that the listeners would be familiar with through music or poetry of the day. The first part (v. 6-8) describes the descent of Jesus - fully God, fully human, yet with a mindset of obedience for the flourishing of

others. **How does this model of Jesus' obedience and His seeking the flourishing of others help you consider how you might serve and sacrifice beyond your own interests? What would it mean to live financially with this same mindset?**

The second part of this passage (v. 9-11) describes an upward movement, as God now becomes the subject, "Therefore God exalted him even more highly (v. 9)." Without Jesus' obedience, this ascent would never have been possible. When we trust God in difficult places and to take risks, we do so with the faith that He will meet us there and continue to show up for us. Jesus' decision to be obedient changed the world forever, and we too were created to help bring the kingdom of God closer to earth in our own unique way. **Where do you need the most help trusting God? Your family, finances, relationships?**