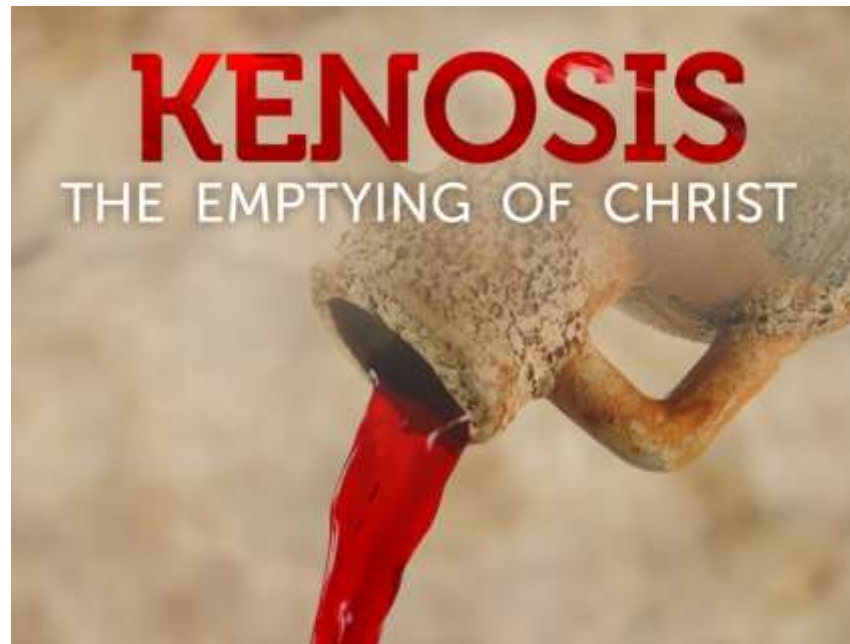


# The Mind of Christ: Part 1

## Relationship Principles



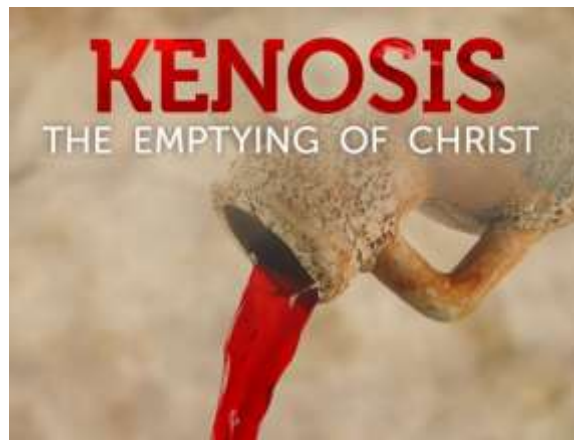
**Philippians 2: 5-11**

# **Why relationships are important**

- **Imbedded in the nature of the Godhead**
- **From the beginning God created Adam and Eve, not just Adam**
- **Not good for man to be alone**
- **We really do need each other**
- **410,000,000 results in .77 seconds!**
- **Every ebook, movie, play, musical, etc.**
- **No man an island—healthy, stable, etc.**

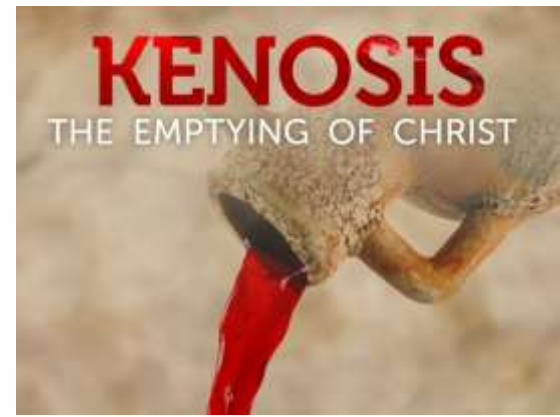
# Philippians 2:5

- “In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus...”
- What is characteristic of that mindset?



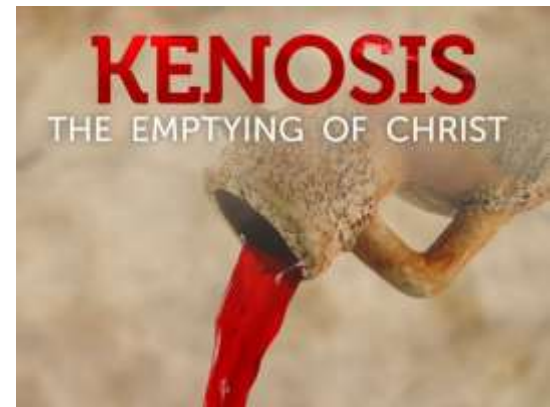
# The Concept of “Emptying”

- Giving up of self-will
- Not seeking personal glory
- No use of power for self-protection
- Give up place of privilege and honor
- Submission to another authority
- Obedient heart, no matter consequences



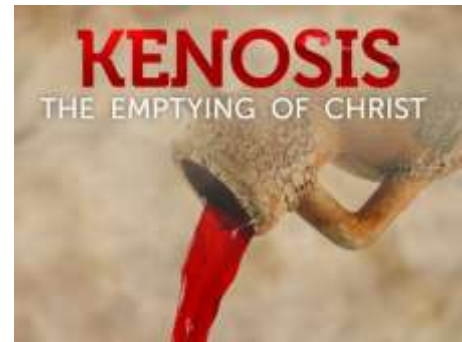
# Seek to answer...

- **How does the mindset of Christ work?**
- **Why is it crucial for Christian relationships?**
- **What difference does it make?**
- **Following are relationship principles based upon a Christ-like mind**



# Divinity not used to his own advantage

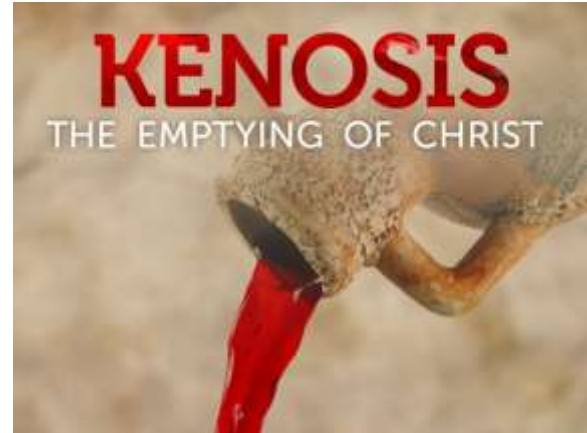
- He could have called ten thousand angels!
- **Matthew 26:53**—*“Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?”*
- Put sword back...Father’s will not according to human will



# Took on form of servant

- Emphasizes two things:
- 1) human likeness—flesh, incarnational ministry, experienced life itself
- 2) servant nature—giving up of self-will, doing the bidding of another,
- **Romans 15:8**--For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God's truth, so that the promises made to the patriarchs might be confirmed

# He humbled himself

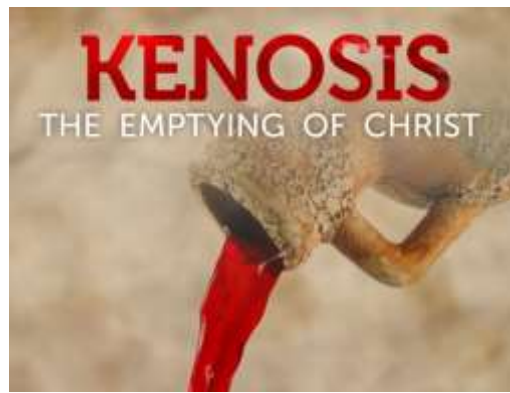


- Obedient-centered
- Father's will-centered
- Conscious act on his part
- Humility is restraining of self, strength, power and ability to control outcome
- By the humility and gentleness of Christ, I appeal to you—I, Paul, who am “timid” when face to face with you, but “bold” toward you when away! 2 Cor. 10:1



# Ultimate Humility

- Ultimate humility was enduring ultimate humiliation!
- **Acts 8:33**— “In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth.”



# What that humility endured

- **23** When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. **24** “He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness;



# **Therefore, God exalted him...**

- **to the highest place**
- **gave him the name that is above every name--**
- **“Jesus Christ (Messiah) Son of God”**
- **Purpose—**
- **1) every knee should bow**
- **2) every tongue confess**
- **“Jesus is Lord”—early Christian confession**

# **What that humility endured**

- **“by his wounds you have been healed.”<sup>25</sup> For “you were like sheep going astray,”<sup>[f]</sup> but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.**

**(1 Peter 2:24-25)**

# **Christ-Like Principles for Christian Relationships**

- 1. Learn to “empty” self when around others.**
- 2. No seeking of honor, privilege and prestige at the expense of others**
- 3. “Swords” wielded do not fix anything in relationships!**
- 4. We are servants for one another on behalf of God’s truth—not just to get along!**

# **Christ-Like Principles for Christian Relationships**

**5. By gentleness and humility of Christ, I restrain myself when around you**

**6. By a conscious act of my will I can center on your life and concerns**

**7. We treat each other as mutually wounded**

**8. Our every interaction confesses “Jesus is Lord”**