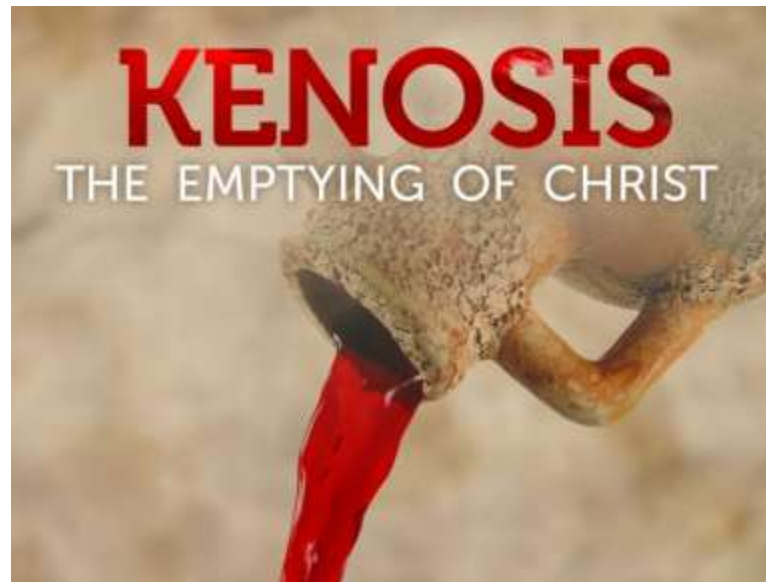


The Mind of Christ (2)— Posture of Practical Humility



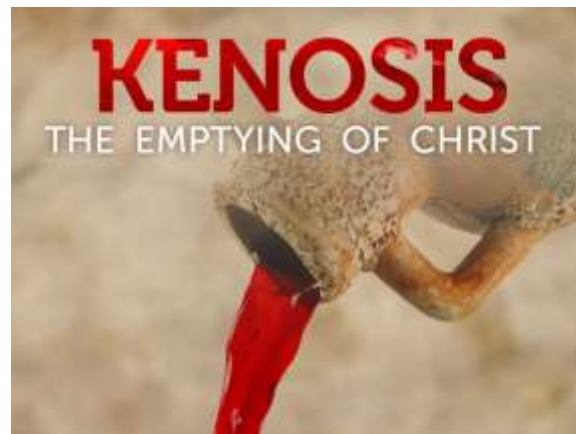
Philippians 2: 1-4

Introduction

- **Mind of Christ in action**
- **Mind of Christ in relationships...based upon the “parabola of salvation”— Christ equal, emptying, and exalted**
- **Today’s lesson focuses on the humility of Christ in our life**
- **Encouragement comes from imitating Christ’s humility**

Philippians 2:5

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



Practical Humility

- **Conditions of being in Christ...If, if, if,**
- **Fulfill my joy**
- **Do nothing out of vain conceit**
- **Esteem others better**
- **Consider things of others**

Conditions of Being in Christ

- **“If”**—First class conditional...assumes statement is true for the sake of argument.
- **Almost takes the flavor of our phrase...**“Since then...” or “In fact it is the case that...”
- **What are those conditions? (Proof that!)**
 1. **Encouragement in Christ**
 2. **Comfort of love**
 3. **Fellowship of the Spirit**
 4. **Affections & compassion [toward one another]**

Fulfill My Joy

- Completes Paul's joy of ministry
- In order that..."same souled"—"same mind" be on the same page, NOT lock-step thinking!
- Mind focused on—significant concept in Philippians! (1:7; 2:2, 5; 3:15; 3:19; 4:2; 4:10)
- Think about 3:15
- "JOY" in these circumstances!

Do Nothing out of Vain Conceit

- Vain conceit = “empty glory, empty pride”
- This is the only place in the New Testament!

Story of the Martyrdom of Polycarp

- “The Proconsul pressed him (Polycarp) and said, “Take the oath and I will let you go. Revile Christ.”

Story of the Martyrdom of Polycarp

- Polycarp said, “For eighty and six years I have been his servant, and he has done me no wrong, and how can I blaspheme my King who saved me?”
- But when the Proconsul persisted again, and said, “Swear by the genius of Caesar,” Polycarp answered him...

Story of the Martyrdom of Polycarp

- “If you **vainly suppose** that I will swear by the genius of Caesar, as you say, and pretend that you are ignorant of who I am, listen plainly: I am a Christian. And if you wish to learn the doctrine of Christianity, fix a day to listen.”
- Rooted in empty glory and empty power coming from a Caesar who did not know God (“according to self-interests”)

Conditions in Philippian Congregation

- 1. 1:16-18, envy-rivalry-self ambition**
- 2. 1:28 frightened by opposition**
- 3. 1:30 going through same struggle Paul had**
- 4. 2:4 wrapped up in themselves**
- 5. 2:14, grumbling and arguing**
- 6. 2:21 everyone looks out for their own interests**

Conditions in Philippian Congregation

- 7. 3:2, 3**—those who put confidence in the flesh—practice and pride in their Jewish religious heritage
- 8. 3:18,19**—enemies of the cross who set their mind on earthly things.
- 9. 4:2**—Euodia and Synteché not getting along
- 10. 4:6** a lot of anxiety
- 11. 4:10-19** deeply concerned about Paul

Esteem Others Better

- “esteeming one another surpassing themselves”
- “One another passage”
- Esteem, consider, conclude, come to the point
- Surpassing...in importance, what happens to others, their concerns, their prayer needs, etc.
- Connects with the “surpassing” of **3:8!**

Consider Things of Others

- “consider”—focus on, scope out, be aware of,
- Relates genuine care and concern for what is going on in the lives of others.
- “ta”—the things. Notice how general Paul leaves this!
- **3:17** Observe and consider

Conclusion: Practical Humility

Comes from imitating Christ by...

- **Conditions of proof that I am in Christ**
- **Joy of being on same page for Christ!**
- **Not self-interests or empty-glory**
- **Esteem others better**
- **Consider things of others**