

NEW YEAR  
WHAT WE SHOULD STRIVE TO BE IN 2023  
PART 2—BE LIKE JESUS IN OUR ALTITUDE!  
PHILIPPIANS 2:1-11 (VS 5)

**Introduction**

*Verse 5 says, “Let this mind be in you which was also Christ Jesus.”*

Every **BELIEVER** should desire to be more like **JESUS** in their lives. After all, **Romans 8:29** says that we who are saved are predestined to be conformed to the image of **GOD’S SON, JESUS CHRIST!**

And **Colossians 3:3** says that our life as a **BELIEVER** is *hid with Christ in God* and the next verse says that *“Christ...is our life”*

Here **PAUL** is exhorting the **PHILIPPIAN CHURCH AND US** to see **JESUS** as the example for living the **CHRISTIAN LIFE!** So, every **BELIEVER** should seek to be more like **JESUS!**

In what ways are we to be like **JESUS?** We saw last week in *verses 1-2* that **WE NEED TO BE LIKE JESUS IN OUR ATTITUDE!** Next, we want to see how **“WE NEED TO BE LIKE JESUS IN OUR ALTITUDE!”** i.e. **WE NEED TO BE LIKE JESUS IN HUMILITY!**

*Verse 5* is our text for this two part message—*“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.”*

*Verse 8* says of the **LORD JESUS CHRIST**, *“And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death.”*

**I. FIRST, LET’S LOOK AT THE OPPOSITE OF HUMILITY  
—PRIDE!**

And we are definitely living in an age of **PRIDE**, are we not?!

**A. What Is PRIDE?**

According to Webster’s Dictionary, **PRIDE** is when someone has **AN INORDINATE AMOUNT OF SELF-ESTEEN**. It is **AN UNREASONABLE CONCEIT OF ONE’S OWN SUPERIORITY**, whether that superiority be in talents, beauty, wealth, accomplishments, rank or elevation in office.

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**B. How Does PRIDE Manifest Itself?**

Again, Webster’s dictionary tells us that **PRIDE manifests itself in lofty airs, distance, reserve, and often in haughty contempt for and rude treatment of others.**

**C. Where Does PRIDE Come From?**

The **BIBLE** says that **PRIDE** stems from the old **ADAMIC NATURE**, man’s fallen nature that he is born with!

*Mark 7:22—“For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, 22 Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: 23 All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.”*

**D. What Is GOD’S Perspective On PRIDE?**

*Proverbs 8:13—“. . .pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.”*

*Proverbs 6:16—“These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: 17 A proud look. . .”*

**E. What Does PRIDE Do?**

**1. PRIDE Causes Contention!**

*Proverbs 13:10—“Only by pride cometh contention: . . .”*

**2. PRIDE Brings Deception!**

Speaking of Edom, **Obadiah 3**—*“The pride of thine heart hath deceived thee, thou that dwellest in the clefts of the rock, whose habitation is high; that saith in his heart, Who shall bring me down to the ground?”*

**3. PRIDE Hardens A Person!**

**PHARAOH** hardened his heart in **MOSES’** day. This stemmed from his **PRIDE!**

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*Exodus 5:2—“And Pharaoh said, Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the LORD, neither will I let Israel go.”*

**KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR’S** mind was hardened in **PRIDE** in **DANIEL’S** Day.

*Daniel 5:20—“But when his heart was lifted up, and his mind hardened in pride, he was deposed from his kingly throne, and they took his glory from him:”*

**PRIDE** will cause one to turn from seeking after **GOD!**

*Psalms 10:4—“The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts.”*

**4. PRIDE Leads Men Into Other Wickedness And Vileness!**

**GOD** said that **PRIDE** was one of the chief **SINS** of **SODOM!**

*Ezekiel 16:49—“Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her...”*

**5. PRIDE Sets One Up For JUDGMENT!**

**a. It Is What Caused Satan To Be Brought Low!**

*Isaiah 14:12-14— 12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! 13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.”*

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**b. PRIDE Is What Caused Others In SCRIPTURE To Be Brought Low!**

**1. PHARAOH’S PRIDE** brought him down!

**2. NEBUCHADNEZZAR’S pride** brought him down! (*Daniel 5:20-21*)

**3. BELESHAZZAR’S PRIDE** brought him down! (*Daniel 5:22-23; 25-26*)

**4. EDOM’S PRIDE** brought her down!  
*Obadiah 3-4— 3 The pride of thine heart hath deceived thee...that saith in his heart, Who shall bring me down to the ground? 4 Though thou exalt thyself as the eagle, and though thou set thy nest among the stars, thence will I bring thee down, saith the LORD.”*

**5. PRIDE Will Bring Us Down Too!**  
*Proverbs 16:18—“Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.”*

**II. WE’VE LOOKED AT THE OPPOSITE OF HUMILITY—PRIDE!  
NOW LET’S LOOK AT HUMILITY!**

**A. What Is HUMILITY?**

Webster’s Dictionary defines it as *“freedom from pride and arrogance; humbleness of mind; a modest estimate of one’s own worth.”*

Webster goes on to say that with regard to the things of **GOD**, *“humility may consist of lowliness of mind; a deep sense of one’s own unworthiness in the sight of God; self-abasement; and submission to the Divine will.”*

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Again, **HUMILITY** is the opposite of **PRIDE**, and it is also the opposite of *vainglory, haughtiness, being puffed up, boasting, self-will, self-glory, and self-promotion.*

But our text also tells us that **HUMILITY** is having the **MIND OF CHRIST!** (*Vs 5*)

**B. What Does Our Text Say About The Characteristics Of The HUMILITY That We Are To Manifest?**

1. **HUMILITY** is not seeking or demanding personal recognition! (*vs 3*)
2. **HUMILITY** is esteeming others better than one's self! (*Vs 3*)
3. **HUMILITY** is caring for others, not just for self! (*Vs 4*)
4. **HUMILITY** is having the **MIND OF CHRIST!** (*Vs 5*)
5. **HUMILITY** is **SUBMITTING** to **GOD** and **HIS WILL!** (*Vs 5-8*)
6. The bottom line is this: **HUMILITY** is not to have self-confidence, but to be totally dependent upon **GOD!**

**C. What HUMILITY Is Not.**

We know that **CHRIST** was **HUMBLE...HE** was **MEEK AND LOWLY IN HEART!**

*Matthew 11:29—“Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.”*

So by observing **HIM**, we can not only see what **HUMILITY** is, but what it is not!

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1. **HUMILITY Is Not Cowardice Or Timidity!**
  - a. **JESUS Drove The Merchants And Money Changers Out Of The Temple!** (*John 2:13-17*)
  - b. **JESUS Was Not Afraid To Rebuke Folks Where Needed!**  
*John 8:44—“Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.”*
  - c. **JESUS Did Not Back Off From Speaking The TRUTH Even In The Face Of Danger!** (*John 10:31-39*)
  - d. **JESUS Did Not Back Off From Pointing Out The Error Of Others!** (*Matthew 23:1-12*)
2. **HUMILITY Is Not An Apologizing, Self-Degrading Attitude!** (*John 6:35-44, 51-56, 60-62, 66*)
3. **HUMILITY Is Not Uncertainty!**  
*Matthew 7:29—“For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.”*
4. **HUMILITY Is Not Quietness In The Face Of Unrepentant Evil!** (*Matthew 23:13-33*)

**D. Why Do We Need HUMILITY In Our Lives?**

1. **The BIBLE Says We Are To Be Clothed With It!**  
*Colossians 3:12—“Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;”*

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(Also, *1 Peter 5:5* below)

2. **HUMILITY Precedes Being Given GRACE From GOD!** *1 Peter 5:5-6*—“Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and **be clothed with humility**: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. **Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:**”
  
3. **HUMILITY Is Needed To Receive GOD’S WORD Properly!**  
*James 1:21*—“Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.”
  
3. **HUMILITY Precedes Being Exalted Or Honored By GOD!** (*Philippians 2:9-11; 1 Peter 5:6* above)  
*Matthew 23:12* And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.”  
  
*James 4:10*—“Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.”  
  
*Proverbs 15:33*—“The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom; and **before honour is humility.**”  
  
*Proverbs 18:12*—“Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, and **before honour is humility.**”  
  
*Proverbs 22:4*—“By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, and honour, and life.”

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4. **HUMILITY Is Essential For Greatness In God’s Kingdom!**  
*Matthew 18:4*—“Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”

E. **Where Does HUMILITY Come From?**  
**HUMILITY** is a product or **FRUIT** of the **HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD** in our lives. *Galatians 5:23*—“**Meekness**”

**PRIDE** is a product or **FRUIT** of the **FLESH!**

So, **HUMILITY** comes from **WALKING IN THE SPIRIT!**  
*Galatians 5:16*—“**This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.**”

**HUMILITY** comes from letting the **MIND OF CHRIST** be in us! i.e. We see **CHRIST’S HUMILITY** and **DESIRE IT** and **SURRENDER TO IT** and **EMBRACE IT** in our own life!

**Conclusion**

Here we are in a **NEW YEAR—2023**. I trust that we’ve all seen these past two weeks how that **CHRIST** is our **EXAMPLE!**

He is our **EXAMPLE** for both the **ATTITUDE** and **ALTITUDE** that we need to have in the coming year, and the year after that, and so on until **HE** comes again! i.e. **CHRIST** is our **EXAMPLE FOR LIFE!**

Whose mind do you have? The mind of Satan? The mind of the world? The mind of the flesh? Or the **MIND OF CHRIST?**

What **JESUS** wants is for us to have **HIS MIND!** It begins with **SALVATION!** It requires **SURRENDER!**