

# A New Mind for a New Man

## Philippians 2:5-11

### I. Introduction

**Story:** June 19, 1865 Union Army General Gordon Granger landed at Galveston, TX with news that the Civil War had ended and all slaves were free. But this was 2 ½ years after President Lincoln's *Emancipation Proclamation*. For 2 ½ years free men and women worked the plantations in Texas as slaves because they never realized they were free. There had been a *proclamation* of freedom by the president but not a *realization* of freedom by the slaves.

1. When God saves us we become a new man in Christ because we are given a new spirit. **Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold all things have become new (2 Cor. 5:17).**
  - We have been saved from the *penalty of sin*.
  - We have been saved from the *power of sin*.
2. Satan attempts to keep us captive through our thought process or how we think. If Satan can keep us in our old way of thinking we will remain his slaves.

**Application:** Some saved person is still dealing with *June Bug issues; Ray-Ray dilemmas; Baby Mama drama;* looking for a *Sugar Daddy* instead of a Heavenly Father; confusing *sex with love;* and sitting in *Happy Hour* sad.

3. We can not expect to be a new man in Christ and continue to our old way of thinking.
4. Paul wanted these Christians to exercise a new way of thinking to go along with the new man in Christ.

**Illustration:** Wife purchased a new dress but refused to wear it until she had the new shoes and purse to match it.

### II. Appeal for a New Mind (v 5)

#### A. Encouragement to change

1. Paul makes an appeal or invites us to take on a new way of thinking and since Paul is inviting us to change it means we have power to change.
2. Our old way of thinking conflicts with our new man because our old thoughts are selfish, prideful, arrogant and rebellious to God. Our old way of thinking robs us of God's blessings.

**Illustration:** A man had a puppy and he tied the puppy to a tree with a 10 foot chain. When the dog would chase someone the chain would chock him and pull him back. Once the dog was fully grown the man removed the chain but the dog never went past the original 10 feet because in his mind he is still chained to tree.

3. This new way of thinking brings *unity* to the body of Christ.
4. The church today seeks *uniformity* and not unity. Uniformity means we all look alike but unity means we think alike.

**Illustration:** A band may not look uniform because everyone is playing a different instrument but when they play the same song that is unity.

5. Unity gives the body of Christ power to do together what we cannot do alone, for example on the Day of Pentecost.

**Story:** A young man was visiting his friend who was a doctor at an insane asylum when he noticed the guards do not carry weapons although they are out numbered by the patients. The doctor replied there was no fear of the patients taking over the facility because insane people never unify.

#### **B. Example of Christ**

1. Jesus is the only example we have of the right way to think.
2. The way Jesus thought was so different from the rest of the world that it is still talked about today. He alone tells us how to deal with
  - Jesus prayed for His *deserters* (the disciples).
  - Jesus washed the feet of the one who would *betray* Him.
  - Jesus petitioned forgiveness for those *who crucified* Him: **"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do."**

### **III. Attitudes with a New Mind (vv 6-8)**

#### **A. Attitude of Self-worth (v 6)**

1. Being in the *"form of God"* means that the pre-incarnate Christ had the same essence, being or attributes as God the Father. Christ is equal to God.
2. Christ knew He was equal to God but did not let His position interfere with his purpose to save mankind from sin.

**Example:** Mild mannered Clark Kent a news reporter for the Daily Planet was really Superman underneath the black rimmed glasses and grey suit.

#### **B. Attitude of a Servant (v 7)**

1. It was the pre-existent Christ who emptied himself at one point in human history.
  - The text moves from Christ's eternal past in glory to his recent past on earth.
  - Christ did not empty Himself of anything but simply "emptied himself" or poured out himself.
  - Christ was *"like"* men because in human form but He never stopped being God.
2. Christ did not come as king, nobleman or lord but as a servant and His primary purpose was to please His Father.
  - The servant's primary *purpose is to please* his master.
  - The master's *responsibility is to provide* for his servant.
3. You have a servant's attitude when you think more about pleasing God than possessing goods.

**Story:** After Alexander the Great completed conquering the known world he gave spoils to his servants. To his generals he gave great provinces to rule and captains received large estates. But one day a lowly servant asked for a large estate and was granted it Alexander.

#### **C. Attitude of a Willing Sacrifice (v 8)**

1. Christ was such a servant that He became a willing sacrifice. He sacrificed His –
  - Reputation (Character assignation)
  - Creature Comforts
  - Life through crucifixion

### **IV. Action by God (vv 9-11)**

- Paul takes us from the *eternal past* (pre-existent Christ); *recent past* (Christ on earth) to the present where God has given him a name that is above every name.

- This name is above the names of – *Allah, Buddha, Confucius, atheism, humanism, communism,* and *capitalism*.
- What is this name? Some say it must be the name of – *Jehovah, Lord, Alpha-Omega, Bright and Morning Star*. But I say the name is Jesus.
- In the *uncertain future* every knee must bow and every tongue confess that **Jesus is Lord**.
- Some think that this passage (vv 5-11) was a *praise song* used by the early church and Paul inserted into this text.
- Maybe it was a praise song because they realized that what God did for Jesus He will also do for you.
- God will give you a name and that represent *recognition*. You think that you have toiled in obscurity but God will put the spot light on you.
- And God will give you *position* by exalting you before your enemies.