

The Mind, The Humbling, And The Exaltation Of Christ (Philippians 2:5–11)

This sermon considers Paul's call to Christlike thinking and traces the movement of the passage from mindset, to humility, to exaltation. Christ is presented not only as the object of faith, but as the pattern God sets before every believer.

Introduction:

1. Paul addresses believers who needed unity and humility, reminding them that right conduct flows from right thinking (Philippians 2:1–4).
2. Instead of offering abstract commands, Paul points directly to the example of Christ as the model for Christian life (Philippians 2:5).
3. This passage reveals both the character of Christ and God's pattern for obedience and honor (Philippians 2:5–11).

1. The Mind Of Christ (Philippians 2:5):

- a. Paul commands believers to adopt the same mindset that was in Christ Jesus, showing that Christian living begins with transformed thinking (Philippians 2:5; Romans 12:2).
- b. The mind of Christ is marked by selflessness and submission to God's will rather than self-assertion or personal ambition (Philippians 2:3–4; Mark 10:45).
- c. Believers are taught that Christlike thinking is foundational, not optional, for all who belong to Him (1 Corinthians 2:16; Colossians 3:1–3).

2. The Humbling Of Christ (Philippians 2:6–8):

- a. Though existing in the form of God, Christ did not cling to His divine privileges, demonstrating voluntary humility rather than loss of deity (Philippians 2:6; John 1:1–3).
- b. Christ took the form of a servant and was made in the likeness of men, fully entering human experience in obedience to the Father (Philippians 2:7; Hebrews 2:14–17).
- c. His obedience culminated in death on the cross, showing that true humility expresses itself through costly obedience (Philippians 2:8; Hebrews 5:8).

3. The Exaltation Of Christ (Philippians 2:9–11):

- a. God highly exalted Christ in response to His obedience, demonstrating divine approval and vindication (Philippians 2:9; Acts 2:32–36).
- b. Christ was given the name above every name, affirming His supreme authority and lordship over all creation (Philippians 2:9; Ephesians 1:20–22).
- c. Every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, resulting in glory to God the Father (Philippians 2:10–11; Isaiah 45:23).

Conclusion:

1. This passage teaches that humility before God is the path God honors and exalts (James 4:10; 1 Peter 5:6).
2. Christ's obedience assures believers that faithfulness, even when costly, is never ignored by God (Hebrews 12:2–3).
3. The exaltation of Christ guarantees that God's purposes will prevail and that Christ's lordship will be universally acknowledged (Revelation 5:12–13).

Applications:

1. Believers must examine whether their thinking reflects the mind of Christ or the spirit of self-interest (Philippians 2:5; Romans 15:1–3).
2. Christians are reminded that obedience often requires humility and sacrifice before any visible reward (Luke 9:23; John 12:26).

3. Followers of Christ should take comfort in knowing that God honors faithful submission in His time (**1 Peter 5:10; Galatians 6:9**).
4. This passage calls the church to unity that is rooted in humility rather than competition or pride (**Philippians 2:1–2; Ephesians 4:1–3**).

Questions:

1. What command does Paul give to believers regarding their thinking, and why is it foundational to Christian living (**Philippians 2:5**)?
2. How does Paul describe Christ's humility in relation to His divine status (**Philippians 2:6–7**)?
3. In what way did Christ's obedience reach its greatest depth (**Philippians 2:8**)?
4. What action did God take in response to Christ's obedience (**Philippians 2:9**)?
5. What universal response to Christ does Paul describe at the end of the passage (**Philippians 2:10–11**)?

Copyright©DavidCambridge2026

Questions & Answers:

1. What command does Paul give to believers regarding their thinking, and why is it foundational to Christian living (Philippians 2:5)?

Answer: Paul commands believers to adopt the mind of Christ, showing that Christlike thinking governs faithful Christian living (Philippians 2:5).

2. How does Paul describe Christ's humility in relation to His divine status (Philippians 2:6-7)?

Answer: Paul explains that Christ did not cling to equality with God but willingly took the form of a servant, demonstrating voluntary humility (Philippians 2:6-7).

3. In what way did Christ's obedience reach its greatest depth (Philippians 2:8)?

Answer: Christ's obedience extended to death on the cross, revealing the full cost of faithful submission to God (Philippians 2:8).

4. What action did God take in response to Christ's obedience (Philippians 2:9)?

Answer: God highly exalted Christ and bestowed upon Him the name above every name (Philippians 2:9).

5. What universal response to Christ does Paul describe at the end of the passage (Philippians 2:10-11)?

Answer: All creation will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, bringing glory to God the Father (Philippians 2:10-11).