

Philippians 2:4-8: *Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God [the same nature as God], thought it not robbery to be equal with God [did not hold on to His equality with God]: But made himself of no reputation [emptied Himself of the things that would have identified Him as God], and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion [appearance] as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.*

1. Introduction: We must daily transform our minds by serving others, (verse 4).

Romans 12:2 *And be not conformed to this world: but **be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that ye may prove [test and approve] what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

Jesus left all the benefits of His heavenly home to come to the sin-cursed earth and serve others. He wants us to have a mind that loves and serves others.

2. The Position of Christ, different from any other man (verse 6)

- a. Pre-existent: Jesus had perspective on His life as a servant that we can't have on our own lives. Jesus made Himself known to us as a man, but was fully existent before He created everything.

John 1:1, 14 **In the beginning was the Word** [Jesus], and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God**... And **the Word was made flesh**, and dwelt [lived] among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

John 17:5 *And now, O Father, glorify thou me [Jesus] with thine own self with **the glory which I had with thee before the world was.***

- b. Personal: "...the form of God...the likeness of men..."

1 Timothy 3:16 *And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: **God was manifest in the flesh** [became a man], **justified in the Spirit** [by living a perfect life], **seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.***

Colossians 2:9 *For **in him** [Jesus] **dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead** [Father, Son, and Holy Spirit] **bodily.***

- c. Powerful: Religions get the Truth about Jesus wrong
 - i. Diminish His Deity: Deny that Jesus was fully God
 - ii. Diminish His Humanity: Deny Jesus' payment on the cross or His bodily resurrection from the dead
 - iii. Doubt the simplicity: Jesus was fully God and fully man, the Creator humble and walking among us; willing to pay a debt He did not owe to free us from a debt we could not pay. He washed His own disciples' feet

and wept over a friend who had died (just before He raised him from the dead).

3. The Pursuit of Christ

- a. Pursuit of Submission: Men pursue higher positions. Jesus humbled Himself and became a servant (verse 8)

Luke 19:10 *For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.*

- b. Pursuit of Servitude: "...made Himself of no reputation...", (verse 7). He left most of His Godly attributes in heaven (omniscience, omnipotence, dominion, others) when He came to earth to live among us. He brought His holiness, justice, grace, and truth with Him.

Mark 10:45 *Even as **the Son of man came not to be ministered unto** [have others serve Him], **but to minister** [serve others], **and to give his life a ransom for many.***

4. The Passion of Christ: Always focused on eternal things while living in a temporary and material world.

- a. A Selfless Passion: Always putting His Father's will ahead of His own

Matthew 26:39 *And he [Jesus] went a little further [into the garden of Gethsemane], and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: **nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.***

- b. A Sacrificial Service: Our blessings come through His bleeding sacrifice

John 5:30 *I [Jesus] can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because **I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.***

5. Conclusion: The cross cost Jesus everything but costs us only our pride. We should obediently serve a God who would do this for us.