

# Let this Mind Be in You

Sermon 9 in the Philippians Series

## Philippians 2:1-11

Verses 5-11 form that great Christological hymn – Carmen Christi  
Paul prefaces this hymn with a plea for unity in verse 1 and is expanded in v. 2-4.  
Verses 5-11 show how Christ is the supreme example of humility.

### I. The Context of the Christ Hymn 2:1-4

v. 1 – 4 Earnest Appeals – conditioned with the little word “if” to stir them up to examine themselves.

1. Consolation (or Encouragement) in Christ

If we are encouraged from our union with Christ

2. Comfort of love

If we are comforted by the love of Christ for us.

3. Fellowship of the Spirit

If we all are sharing in the same Holy Spirit

4. Affection and Mercy

Strong emotion from their feeling for Paul as we see in v. 2 – fulfill my joy

This is not the “if” of doubt. It’s the “if” of exhortation.

OR “since” you have these things – because of God’s work in you...

v. 2 – Bring me joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.

v. 3 – This verse is key to understanding verses 5-11.

v. 4 – It is very natural look out for our own interests.

We have to work on loving and caring for others.

### II. The Christ Hymn Itself 2:5-11

A. The Mind of Christ – 5

The first 4 verses lead us to this exhortation, to live our lives following the example of the Lord Jesus Christ – in regard to how we regard ourselves.

B. The Truth of the Deity of Christ -- 6

The Greek word translated “form” is found in verse 6 and again in verse 7.

- being in the form of God
- then taking the form of a bondservant

To quote O'Brien (who has about 100 pages on verses 5-11)

“in the form of God is best interpreted against the background of the glory of God, that shining Light in which, according to the [Old Testament] and intertestamental literature, God was pictured... The expression does not refer simply to external appearance but pictures the preexistent Christ as clothed in the garments of divine majesty and splendor.”

Louw and Nida -- “form is the nature or character of something, with an emphasis upon both the internal and external form.” -- “he always had the very nature of God.”

### C. His Humiliation 7-8

#### 1. He Made Himself of no reputation

- He emptied Himself
- He made himself nothing
- Allusion to Isaiah 53:12 – “*He ...poured out his soul unto death*”.

#### 2. Taking the form of a bond-slave; likeness and appearance as a man

#### 3. The Humiliation of Death on the Cross-- 8b

### D. His Exaltation 9-11

#### 1. He has the Name above every Name.

**Revelation 19:12-13** -- His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a **name** written that **no one knows** but himself. He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the **name** by which he is called is The Word of God.

#### 2. Every knee will bow, every tongue confess -- Isaiah 45:22-25

Every knee will bow:  
Willingly – because He is their Savior and King.  
Or unwillingly -- because He is their Judge.