

Having the Mind of Christ

Philippians 2:5-11 | Two-Page Sermon Guide

Big Idea: The submissive mind of Christ teaches us to use our position to serve, our sacrifices to bless, and our future hope to persevere.

Key Command: “Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 2:5)

Opening Thought: The Mind Shapes the Body

Wilder Penfield’s awake brain surgeries helped show how specific regions of the brain influence movement, sensation, and memory. Philippians 2 reminds us that spiritual life also moves from the inside out: the mind of Christ must shape the behavior of the body of Christ.

I. Jesus Viewed Others with Dignity and Respect (vv. 5-6)

Jesus existed in the form of God and possessed full equality with God, yet He did not use His rights for selfish advantage.

Fill-in: Because Jesus was secure in His identity, He did not have to grasp for...

Application: Do not let your position or privilege determine how you...

- Honor someone this week whom you might normally overlook.
- Before a disagreement, ask: “Am I trying to win, or am I trying to love?”
- Replace self-defense with sincere listening.

II. Jesus Served Others Sacrificially (vv. 7-8)

Jesus did not stop being God; He took the form of a servant. He embraced human limitations, submitted to the Father, and obeyed to the point of death on a cross.

Fill-in: Christlike service is not measured by convenience but by...

Application: Do not let the cost of sacrifice limit your willingness to...

- Choose one hidden act of service that benefits someone else.
- Lay down one right or preference for the sake of unity.
- Pray: “Lord Jesus, make Your humility visible through my obedience.”

III. Jesus Led Others Optimistically (vv. 9-11)

The humiliation of Christ was not the end. God highly exalted Him. Every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Fill-in: Present obedience is strengthened by future...

Application: Do not let present circumstances weaken your confidence in...

- Write one discouraging circumstance beside the truth: “Jesus Christ is Lord.”
- Encourage one suffering believer with resurrection hope.
- End each day by naming one way God helped you obey, serve, or endure.

Closing Illustration: John Perkins

In 1970, civil-rights leader and Christian minister John M. Perkins was arrested and brutally beaten by police officers in Brandon, Mississippi. Perkins later testified that while he wrestled with pain and anger, the Lord brought him to a deeper commitment to forgiveness, reconciliation, and costly love. He did not excuse injustice, but he refused to let hatred own his heart. That is a picture of the mind of Christ: entrusting wrongs to God, refusing revenge, and continuing to serve others for the glory of Christ.

Congregational Action Plan

Toward Others	In Sacrifice	With Hope
Honor one person. Listen before defending. Treat every believer with dignity.	Serve in one hidden way. Lay down one preference. Obey when it costs.	Confess Christ’s lordship. Encourage one sufferer. Remember God is not finished.

Reflection Questions

- Where am I tempted to grasp for recognition, control, comfort, or preference?
- Who is God calling me to serve with the humility of Christ?
- What future hope should change the way I respond this week?

Final Challenge: View others with dignity. Serve others sacrificially. Endure with hope. Have this mind among yourselves.