

ADOPT JESUS' ATTITUDE, PT. 1; PHIL. 2:5-6 (Ed O'Leary)

INTRODUCTION.

TODAY, ~ WE CONTINUE OUR LOOK AT THIS NEXT SECTION OF PHILIPPIANS, ~ 2:1-11.

AS WE'VE NOTED, ~ THIS PARAGRAPH DEALS WITH RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN believers in our local church. ~~ 2 parts: 1-4 and 5-11.

▶▶ Verses 1-4 ~ Verse 1 ~ Verse 2a

▷▷ And then in verses 2b-4, ~ Paul used series of 5 exhortations to show believers how each of us can help promote, ~ strengthen, ~ and maintain unity within our church.

THIS A.M. WE WILL BEGIN TO LOOK AT THE 2nd PART OF THIS SECTION, ~ verses 5-11.

▶▶ Bird's-eye view, ~ then begin to look at the details.

▷▷ Main; ~~ exhortation in vs. 5. ~~ Calls believers to adopt same attitude that Jesus had.

▷▷ Then in verses 6-11, ~ from exhortation to explanation. ~~ Saw pattern earlier

↳↳ Verse 6 explains Jesus' attitude.

↳↳ Verses 7-8 then describes the actions Jesus took based on his attitude.

↳↳ Verse 9 explains the results of Jesus' actions, ~ and i.e. his exaltation.

↳↳ And finally, ~ in verses 10-11 describes a little of what Jesus' exaltation means.

VERSES 5-6 TODAY.~~ OK, ~ LET'S LOOK CLOSELY AT MAIN POINT, ~ VS. 5.

NASB; ~ "HAVE THIS ATTITUDE IN YOURSELVES WHICH WAS ALSO IN CHRIST Jesus."

▶▶ Now, ~ keep in mind the overall context of 2:1-11 deals with our relationships with one another in our church.

▷▷ So the idea here that Paul is expressing is this: ~~ "In our relationships with one another, we are adopt the same attitude toward each other that Christ Jesus had."

↳↳ TPID, ~ In our dealings with our brothers and sister in Christ, ~ each one of us is to let the same way of thinking guide us that guided Jesus. ⇓⇓ 1/6

▶▶It's important to point out here that the form of the Greek verb shows this to be a continuous thing.

▷▷IOW, ~ the expanded idea here is, ~ "In our relationships with one another, ~ we must always be guided by the same way of thinking that guided Jesus."

▷▷It's not a one time and we're done thing. ~ It's not to be sporadic or only when we feel like adopting the same attitude that Jesus had.

↪↪It is something to adopt constantly in our dealings with our brothers and sisters.

▶▶The call to continually take on the attitude that Jesus had links us back to [verses 1-4](#).

▷▷Because adopting Jesus' way of thinking in our mutual relations with one another will help promote, ~ strengthen, ~ and maintain unity within our church.

▷▷So verse 5 actually serves as a 6th exhortation showing how each of us can help

AT VERSE 6, ~ PAUL TURNS FROM EXHORTATION TO EXPLANATION.

IN VERSE 6, ~ PAUL DESCRIBES JESUS' ATTITUDE.

"WHO, THOUGH HE WAS IN THE FORM OF GOD ~ [I.E., ~ THOUGH HE WAS GOD], ~ ¶¶

▶▶did not count equality with God ~ [i.e., ~ His equality with the Father and the Spirit; ~ or, ~ simply, ~ His deity] ~ a thing to be grasped."

▶▶A very strong statement of Jesus' deity and preexistence. ~ NT filled w/ this truth.

▷▷Jn. 1:1, ~ "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

↪↪Point John is making: ~ "When creation took place, ~ the Word already existed.

↪↪The Word was with God. ~ Word "with" points to Jesus' personal relationship and equality with God the Father and, though not mentioned here, with God the Holy Spirit.

↪↪Verse 1 ends with the clear affirmation: ~ the Word was God."

▷▷Later, ~ "All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made." ~ Through ~ By Jesus ~ Upholds ~ Creator/Sustainer.

▷▷"the Word became flesh and took up residence among us" (LEB). ¶¶ 2/6

▷▷ Jn. 8:58, ~ "Jesus said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am."

▷▷ Jn. 16:28, ~ NIV, ~ "I came from the Father and entered the world; now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father."

▷▷ And in Jn. 17:5, ~ "And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed." ~ Preexistence. ~ Share's glory.

↳↳ Is. 42:8a, ~ "I am the Lord; that is my name; my glory I give to no other."

▶▶ Could go on and on ~ But I think we get the point. ~ Side note: Person & Work.

BACK TO PHIL. 2:6 AND PAUL'S DESCRIPTION OF JESUS' ATTITUDE. ~ "THOUGH JESUS was God, ~ he did not count his deity a thing to be grasped."

▶▶ Greek word translated as "a thing to be grasped" is a rare Greek word.

▷▷ And because of that, ~ its meaning has been debated; ~ and it's difficult to decide how to translate it. ~ Rare or ambiguous

▶▶ Getting back to the phrase "a thing to be grasped," ~ there a few ways to interpret it.

▶▶ Based on my research of this term, ~ it seems likely that Paul was expressing the following in [verse 6](#).

▷▷ "Though Jesus was God, ~ He did not consider His deity as something to be selfishly exploited for His own ends."

↳↳ TPID, ~ His attitude was that He would not use His exalted position as God for His own self-centered advantage.

▶▶ This interpretation fits with the immediate context of [verses 3-4](#)

▷▷ This interpretation that Jesus "did not consider His deity as something to be selfishly exploited for His own ends," fits the immediate context, ~ ¶¶

↳↳ because it's basically talking about the same things.

▷▷ Jesus' attitude moved him to look out for our interests, ~ to humbly count us as more significant than himself, ~ and to reject being guided by selfish ambition and conceit.

▷▷ In fact, ~ one of the things Paul may be doing here is presenting Jesus as an example of doing what Paul exhorted us to do in [verses 3-4](#). ¶¶ 3/6

▶▶ And this interpretation, ~ that Jesus "did not consider His deity as something to be selfishly exploited for His own ends," ~ 77

▷▷ also fits with the wider context of the NT's description of Jesus and the words of Jesus himself.

↳↳ In Rom. 15:3a, ~ "For Christ did not please himself."

→→ "I always do the things that are pleasing to the Father" (Jn. 8)

↳↳ In Jn. 6:38, ~ "For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me.

→→ Earlier in John, ~ Jesus said, ~ "I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me" (Jn. 5).

↳↳ And in Mk. 10:45, ~ "For even the Son of Man came ~ not to be served ~ but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

SO GETTING BACK TO VERSE 6, ~ IT SEEMS LIKELY that Paul was expressing the following.

▶▶ "Though Jesus was God, ~ He did not consider His deity as something to be selfishly exploited for His own ends."

▶▶ I.e., ~ Jesus' attitude was that He would not use His exalted position as God for His own self-centered advantage.

▶▶ Unlike many earthly rulers who use their position for their own selfish gain, ~ Jesus deliberately did not act in this manner.

▷▷ The outlook Jesus had was that His equality with the Father and the Spirit did not mean getting ~ but giving.

▷▷ Indeed, ~ he stepped down from his exalted position as God, ~ became a servant by means of the incarnation, ~ humbled himself, ~ and died for us.

▷▷ What a startling contrast to what we see in this fallen world.

▶▶ As the eternal Son of God, ~ the second Person of the Trinity, ~ Jesus receives unceasing worship from the heavenly host.

▶▶ Yet despite His exalted position of receiving this unceasing worship, ~ he did not consider that exalted position as something to exploit for His own selfish advantage. 77 4/6

▷▷Quite to the contrary.

↳↳As Paul puts in in 2 Cor. 8:9, ~ "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich."

↳↳Jesus became poor when he became human because he set aside so much.

↳↳He is "King of kings and Lord of lords." ~ Yet he lowered himself to lowly servant status.

↳↳He humbled himself and even voluntarily surrendered Himself to death on a cross, ~ the most cruel and humiliating death known at that time.

↳↳Yet by doing so, ~ He made all who believe in him rich.

↳↳"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for [our] sake he became poor, so that [we] by his poverty might become rich."

"THOUGH JESUS WAS GOD, ~ HE DID NOT CONSIDER HIS DEITY AS SOMETHING TO be selfishly exploited for His own ends."

▶▶Jesus did not live to please Himself. ~ He came to serve ~ not to be served. ~ Though He was rich, ~ for our sake He became poor.

▶▶Jesus had an attitude of selflessness, ~ humility, ~ others-centeredness, ~ servanthood, ~ self-sacrifice, ~ and giving with no thought of selfishly getting.

▷▷This is the way of thinking that guided Jesus, ~ the sovereign creator of the universe, ~ the King of kings and Lord of lords, ~ almighty God.

▶▶In our relationships with one another, ~ my . . . ~ we are adopt this same attitude toward each other. ~ TPID, ~ we are to always have a Christ-like attitude toward one another.

▷▷This is the way of thinking that is to constantly guide us in our relationships with each other in our church.

▷▷This means that we must continuously reject an attitude of selfishness and pride, ~ all notions of self-seeking gain and personal advantage, ~ ¶¶

↳↳any inkling of thinking we should be served or that we're better than others, ~ and anything else that is contrary to a Christ-like attitude. ¶¶ 5/6

CONCLUSION.

JUST A BRIEF CLOSING THOUGHT.

▶▶Earlier, ~ we noted that adopting Jesus' attitude will help promote, ~ strengthen, ~ and maintain unity within our church.

▷▷It will do a lot more. ~~ It will bring glory to Jesus. ~~ Ultimate goal

↪↪And it will take us farther down the road of becoming more and more like Jesus, ~ the goal that God the Father has set for each of his children.

LET'S PRAY 6/6