"THE MIND OF CHRIST"

(NKJV) (Philippians 2:5-11)

INTRODUCTION

"Let this mid be in you" - copy His attitude and willingness; think and act this way; adhere to.

"Which was also in Christ Jesus" - the identified pattern is Jesus; note His incarnation.

1. (v6-8) "THE MIND OF CHRIST"

"Who, being in the form of God"

(ASV) "existing in ... "

(TCNT) "though the divine nature was His from the beginning"

There was a lofty position He held before He was made man: (John 1:1)

"the form of God" - not a reference to an outward appearance; rather, inner identity; Deity; the very nature and substance of God; divine essence which constitutes God.

One may say, "The Bible does not teach that Jesus is God."

Answer: (John 1:18; John 14:9-10; Col. 1:19; 1 Tim. 3:16; Hebrews 1:1-3)

"did not consider it robbery to be equal with God"

(ASV) "counted not the being on an equality with God a thing to be grasped"

Christ did not regard His equality a prize to be grasped and retained; held or clung to.

(John 1:14) "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us"

(v7) "but made Himself of no reputation"

(ASV) "but emptied Himself"

(Amplified) "but stripped Himself of all privilege"

"emptied Himself" of what? - of His environment of glory; the splendor of heaven.

He does not divest Himself of divine essence or nature: (Matthew 1:23)

"taking the form of a bondservant" ("servant") ("slave")

(NIV) "taking the very nature of a servant"

As the "form of God" expresses the heavenly, so the "form of a servant" expresses that He really was a servant of man.

(Matthew 20:28; Luke 22:27; John 13:14-15)

"and coming in the likeness of men"

"likeness" - suggests similarity but difference: though His humanity was genuine, He was different from all other humans in that He was sinless. (Romans 8:3)

"... God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh ... "

Note the Bible words used to describe His entrance into our world: (John 1:14; Rms. 1:3; Gal. 4:4; 1 Tim. 3:16; Heb. 2:14 and 5:7; 2 John v7)

(v8) "and being found in appearance as a man"

- (KJV) "and being found in fashion as a man"
- (RSV) "and being found in human form"

"Likeness" states the fact of real resemblance to man in mode of existence, and "fashion" defines the outward mode or form as it appeared to men.

"He humbled Himself" - (v7) emptied Himself of His heavenly position.

"and became obedient to the point of death" - (Mark 10:33-34; John 19:16)

"even the death of the cross" - (Acts 2:22-24)

2. (v9-11) THE EXALTATION OF CHRIST

"God also has highly exalted Him" - (Acts 1:9-11; Ephesians 1:20)

"and given Him the name" - perhaps the name in (v11) "Jesus Christ is Lord"

"which is above every other name" - (Acts 4:12)

(v10) "that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow"

The words speak of the absolute and total supremacy of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 8:37-39)

"of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth"

That's everybody and every thing. Christ has been exalted to a position higher than all other things: (Eph. 4:10)

The explanation may be found in (Psalm 148)

And in our hymn #3 "Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah"

"and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord"

It means to acknowledge the kingship of the newly crowned Lord.

Not merely utter the phrase; rather, we should "bow" and "confess."

"to the glory of God the Father" - give God the glory.

(Psalm 100:1-5)

Hymn #66 "Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow"