

* I-II: KNOWING AND TAKING CHRIST AS OUR PATTERN

- I. **In order to experience Christ and live Christ, we must know Him as our pattern and take Him as our pattern—Phil. 2:5-11:**
 - A. In 2:5-11 Paul presents Christ as the pattern; we need to have this pattern infused into us.
 - B. The pattern of the Christian life is the God-man Savior who emptied Himself and humbled Himself and who has been exalted and glorified by God—Phil. 2:6-9:
 - Although the Lord was equal with God, He did not consider being equal with God a treasure to be grasped and retained; He emptied Himself, laying aside what He possessed—the form of God—Phil. 2:6-7a.
 - In His incarnation the Lord did not alter His divine nature; He changed only His outward expression from the form of God to the form of a slave—Phil. 2:7.
 - The Lord became “in the likeness of men”—Phil. 2:7b-8a:
 - ☐ *The form of God* implies the inward reality of Christ’s deity; *the likeness of men* denotes the outward appearance of His humanity.
 - ☐ He appeared to men as a man outwardly, but as God, He had the reality of deity inwardly.
 - ☐ Christ entered into the condition of humanity, and He was found in fashion as a man.
 - Christ humbled Himself by becoming obedient even unto death—the death of the cross—Phil. 2:8b:
 - ☐ Humbling Himself was a further step in emptying Himself.
 - ☐ Christ’s self-humbling manifested His self-emptying.
 - ☐ The death of the cross was the climax of Christ’s humiliation—Acts 8:33; Phil. 3:21.
 - The Lord humbled Himself to the uttermost, but God exalted Him to the highest peak and bestowed on Him “the name which is above every name”—Phil. 2:9:
 - ☐ God has exalted Jesus, a real man, to be the Lord of all—Acts 2:32-33; 5:31.
 - ☐ This exaltation of Christ was the manifestation of resurrection power.
 - ☐ The highest name in the universe, the greatest name, is the name of Jesus:
 - The name is the expression of the sum total of what the Lord Jesus is in His person and work.
 - *In the name of Jesus* means in the sphere and element of all that the Lord is—Phil. 2:10.
 - ☐ The result of our confessing that Jesus is Lord is that God the Father is glorified; this is the great end of all that Christ is and has done in His person and work—Phil. 2:11; 1 Cor. 15:24-28.
 - C. The principle of this pattern is that someone with the highest life and position would be willing to live in a lowly way.

II. Christ as our pattern is not only objective but also subjective and experiential—Phil. 2:5, 12-13:

- A. The One who set up the pattern and who Himself is the pattern is now operating within us as the indwelling God—Phil. 2:13.
- B. The principle of Christ as the inward pattern for our living is that even if we have the highest standard or the highest position, we should not grasp it.
- C. We need to be partners with Christ in His human living, especially in His emptying and humbling Himself and in His not grasping equality with God as a treasure—Phil. 2:6-7.
- D. The Christ who is our pattern is now the life within us—Col. 3:4:
 - We have a life in us that is a self-emptying and self-humbling life; this life never grasps at something as a treasure but is always willing to lay aside position and title.
 - We have Christ crucified as our pattern, and this pattern is the crucified life within us—Gal. 2:20:
 - ☐ The steps of Christ's humiliation in Philippians 2:5-8 are all aspects of the crucified life lived out in a full way.
 - ☐ When we live Christ, we live the One who is the pattern of a crucified life—Phil. 1:21a.
 - Taking the crucified life as our pattern opens the gate for resurrection and brings us into the power of resurrection—Phil. 3:10:
 - ☐ By living a crucified life, we can experience the power of resurrection that exalted Christ to the highest peak in the universe—Eph. 1:19-22.
 - ☐ The highest life on earth is the crucified life; whenever we live a crucified life, God will bring us into the power of resurrection.
 - Christ should be exalted not only objectively in the universe but also subjectively in our daily life—Phil. 2:9:
 - ☐ Christ is exalted in us when we take Him as the crucified life to be the pattern of our daily life.
 - ☐ The bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ is the power that exalts Christ—Phil. 1:19.

* III-IV: HOW TO TAKING CHRIST AS OUR PATTERN

III. If we would take Christ as our pattern, we need to take Christ's mind as our mind—Phil. 2:5:

- A. Paul not only took Christ as his living and expression outwardly but also took the mind of Christ as his mind inwardly—1 Cor. 2:16.
- B. For the mind of Christ to be in us means that this mind is something living; actually, the mind of Christ is Christ Himself, for the person of Christ is manifested in His mind.
- C. We need to open ourselves and let "this mind" be in us—Phil. 2:5:
 - This refers to the considering in verse 3 and to the regarding in verse 4.
 - This kind of thinking was in Christ when He emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, and humbled Himself, being found in fashion as a man—Phil. 2:7-8.
 - To have such a mind requires us to be one with Christ in His inward parts—Phil. 1:8.

IV. **We need to know the Son's submission**—Phil. 2:5-11; Heb. 5:7-8:

- A. The Word of God tells us that the Lord Jesus and the Father are one—John 10:30.
- B. The Father and the Son are equal, equipotent, coexisting, and existing simultaneously.
- C. Philippians 2:5-7 forms one section, and verses 8 through 11 form another section:
 - The first section is on Christ emptying Himself.
 - The second section is on Christ humbling Himself in His humanity—Phil. 3:8.
- D. When the Lord came to the earth, He emptied Himself of the glory, power, position, and image of His deity.
- E. The Father became the representation of authority, and the Son became the representation of submission:
 - When the Lord came down to the earth, He dropped authority on the one hand and picked up submission on the other hand.
 - He set His heart to become a slave, to be restricted in time and space as a man.
 - The Lord humbled Himself, becoming obedient; the obedience in the Godhead is the most wonderful thing in the whole universe.
- F. We should submit to authority; this is a great matter.
- G. We need to have the mind in us which was in Christ Jesus—Phil. 2:5:
 - All of us should take the way of our Lord, taking His principle of submission as our principle of submission.
 - Whoever knows this principle will realize that no sin is uglier than rebellion and that nothing is more important than submission—Jude 11; Rom. 1:5; 16:26.
 - Only when we see the principle of submission can we serve God—Matt. 4:10; 20:28; Acts 6:2; Rom. 1:9; 16:18; Heb. 12:28; Rev. 22:3.
 - God's principle can be maintained only by submitting in the way that the Lord submitted.
- H. Hebrews 5:8 tells us that the Lord's obedience was learned through suffering:
 - Suffering brought obedience to Him.
 - True submission is found when there is still obedience in spite of suffering.
 - When the Lord came to the earth, He did not bring obedience with Him; rather, He learned it through sufferings.
- I. Salvation not only brings joy; it also brings submission—Rom. 1:5; 16:19, 26; Titus 3:1:
 - Only the submissive ones will experience the fullness of salvation.
 - We need to be submissive, even as the Lord was submissive.
 - The Lord became the source of our salvation through obedience—Heb. 5:8-9.
 - God saved us with the hope that we would submit to His will—Rev. 4:11.
- J. When one meets God's authority, submission is a simple matter, and knowing God's will is also a simple matter, because the Lord, who was submissive throughout His life, has already given us His life of submission—John 11:25.

- I. In order to experience Christ and live Christ, we must know Him as our pattern and take Him as our pattern** [Bird's-eye View for Prophesying, a Sample](#)
- In 2:5-11 Paul presents Christ, the God-man Savior, as the pattern of the Christian life we need to be infused into us. Although the Lord was equal with God, He did not consider being equal with God a treasure to be grasped and retained; He emptied Himself, laying aside what He possessed—the form of God (the inward reality of His deity). In His incarnation, He did not alter His inward divine nature but changed only His outward appearance from the form of God to the form of a slave in the likeness of men. In His humanity, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient even unto death—the death of the cross—the climax of His humiliation. The Lord humbled Himself to the uttermost, but God exalted Him, a real man, to the highest peak; to be the Lord of all and bestowed on Him “the name which is above every name” — the highest name in the universe. The name is the expression of the sum total of what the Lord Jesus is in His person and work; in the name of Jesus means in the sphere and element of all that the Lord is. The result of our confessing that Jesus is Lord is that God the Father is glorified; this is the great end of all that Christ is and has done in His person and work. This exaltation of Christ was the manifestation of resurrection power.. [\[Phil. 2:6-9\] Who, existing in the form of God, did not consider being equal with God a treasure to be grasped. But emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, becoming in the likeness of men. And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, becoming obedient even unto death, and that the death of a cross. Therefore also God highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name.](#)
 - The principle of this pattern is that someone with the highest life and position would be willing to live in a lowly way.
- II. Christ as our pattern is not only objective but also subjective and experiential**
- Christ who sets up the pattern and who Himself is the pattern is now operating within us as the indwelling God. The principle of Christ as the inward pattern for our living is that even if we have the highest standard or the highest position, we should not grasp it, instead, we partner with Christ in His human living and live His crucified life within us, a self-emptying and self-humbling life that is always willing to lay aside position and title. The steps of Christ's humiliation in Phil. 2:5-8 are all aspects of the crucified life lived out in a full way. Christ is exalted in us when we take Christ crucified as our pattern in our daily life. Taking the crucified life, the highest life on earth, as our pattern brings us into subjective experience of the power of resurrection that exalted Christ to the highest peak in the universe. The bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ is the power that exalts Christ. [\[Phil. 3:13\] For it is God who operates in you both the willing and the working for His good pleasure. \[Col. 3:4\] When Christ our life is manifested... \[Gal. 2:20\] I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me...](#)
- III. If we would take Christ as our pattern, we need to take Christ's mind as our mind**
- Paul not only took Christ as his living and expression outwardly but also took the mind of Christ as his mind inwardly. The mind of Christ is Christ Himself, for the person of Christ is manifested in His mind, that He emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, and humbled Himself, being found in fashion as a man. For the mind of Christ to be in us means that we need to open ourselves and be one with Christ in His inward parts. [\[Phil. 2:5\] Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus. \[Phil. 2:3-4\] Doing nothing by way of selfish ambition nor by way of vainglory, but in lowliness of mind considering one another more excellent than yourselves. Not regarding each his own virtues, but each the virtues of others also.](#)
- IV. We need to know the Son's submission**
- The Word of God tells us that the Lord Jesus and the Father are one. Though The Father and the Son are equal, equipotent, coexisting, and existing simultaneously, when the Lord came to the earth, He emptied Himself of the glory, power, position, and image of His deity that the Father became the representation of authority, and the Son became the representation of submission. The Lord dropped authority on the one hand and picked up submission on the other hand; He set His heart to become a slave, to be restricted in time and space as a man; He humbled Himself by becoming obedient; the obedience in the Godhead is the most wonderful thing in the whole universe. Likewise, we need to have the mind in us which was in Christ Jesus and submit to authority; taking His principle of submission as our principle of submission. Only when we see the principle of submission can we serve God and maintain God's principle. No sin is uglier than rebellion and that nothing is more important than submission. Hebrews 5:8 tells us that when the Lord came to the earth, He did not bring obedience with Him; rather, He learned it through sufferings. True submission is found when there is still obedience in spite of suffering. The Lord became the source of our salvation through obedience. Salvation not only brings joy; it also brings submission, only the submissive ones will experience the fullness of salvation. We need to be submissive, even as the Lord was submissive because God saved us with the hope that we would submit to His will. When one meets God's authority, submission is a simple matter, and knowing God's will is also a simple matter, because the Lord, who was submissive throughout His life, has already given us His life of submission. [\[Phil. 2:6\] Who, existing in the form of God, did not consider being equal with God a treasure to be grasped. \[John 10:30\] I and the Father are one. \[Heb. 5:8-9\] Even though He was a Son, learned obedience from the things which He suffered. And having been perfected, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation. \[Phil. 2:9-11\] Therefore also God highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, That in the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, And every tongue should openly confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.](#)

Often the saints complain of weaknesses. We are weak whenever we do not take the crucified life as our pattern. If you are weak in your family life, daily life, or church life, it is an indication that you are not taking the crucified life and therefore are not in the power of resurrection. The gate through which we enter into the power of resurrection is the crucified life.

<Excerpts from "Life-study of PHILIPPIANS", Message 11, "The Exaltation of Christ">

There is an urgent need among us in the Lord's recovery today to experience Christ as our pattern. We desperately need to experience Him as our crucified life. Such a life stands altogether in contrast to a life of rivalry and vainglory. In the church life we either take the crucified life as our pattern or automatically live a life of rivalry and vainglory. There is no third way. If we do not take the crucified life as our pattern, we shall automatically live in the way of rivalry for vainglory. The issue here is extremely serious. We need to be honest with ourselves and consider the kind of life we have been living in the church. If you review the time you have been in the church life, you will see that whenever you did not take the crucified life as your pattern, you were living a life of rivalry for vainglory.

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