

**Lecture 29 – Philippians: Flow of Thought, cont.**

“Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus...” Philippians 2:5

**Key Terms**

Humility, Christ’s attitude, steadfastness

**Objectives**

- \*Reproduce the flow of thought outline of Philippians.
- \*Explain what it means to have the attitude of Christ.
- \*Indicate what the goal of humility is.

**Philippians: Flow of Thought, cont.**

## Questions &amp; Answers

## I. Flow of Thought, continued

## A. Philippians 2

1. Paul’s teaching on Christ is not merely doctrinal, it is rather given in the context of exhortation and encouragement.
2. We are to adopt Christ’s attitude, mindset and approach to life.

## B. Philippians 2:1-4, Humility

1. You are not to pursue yourself.
2. Humility is not a weakness but a strength that pursues the interest of someone else.
3. It is not self-worthlessness OR self-conceit.
4. Self-conceit is based on the need to make someone else recognize you and your authority.
5. How does Paul introduce Christ?

## C. Philippians 2:5-11, Have the attitude of Christ

1. Relation to humility
2. Verse 5, Have the attitude of Christ Jesus. Do not imitate Him.
3. Verse 6-8, The Creator-Mediator did not consider His status as something to retain. How much more should we be willing to let go of our petty status?
4. Verse 9, ‘Therefore ...’
  - a. Joseph as a type of Christ who counts on God through much suffering and who is eventually vindicated.
  - b. Don’t surrender hoping to be exalted. You lose it if you do so.
  - c. Surrender must be unconditional.
  - d. Two major active verbs attributed to Jesus
    - 1) \_\_\_\_\_
    - 2) \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. Two major active verbs attributed to God the Father
    - 1) \_\_\_\_\_
    - 2) \_\_\_\_\_
  - f. When we insist on doing things our way, we rob ourselves and God of the fruit of His intervention.
  - g. Christ was not humble just to be humble, but to be of benefit to others; we should do the same.
5. Verse 6, Word “grasped” in NIV should be “retained.”
6. Verse 7, “Made Himself nothing” means “poured Himself out.” Greek: *Kenosis*
  - a. What did He empty Himself of? Two options, either:

- 1) The relative attributes of God while retaining communicable attributes
  - 2) He “confined himself”: emptying into the confinement by becoming a human being
7. Humility echoes John 13:3-17
  8. God will vindicate those who surrender to Him.
  9. The goal of humiliation is not our glory but the glory of God; not our vindication, but His.
- D. Philippians 2:12-13, Challenge of humility and steadfastness is part of sanctification