



## Philippians - Chapter 2 – Verses 5-7

### Philippians 2:3-7

3 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; 4 do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. 5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.

The “kenosis” of Christ = “emptied Himself”

**John 10:30 "I and the Father are one."**

**Colossians 2:9 For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells  
in bodily form,**

## Philippians - Chapter 2 – Verses 5-7



### CONTEXT

Verse 2 - “make my joy complete by being of the same mind”

“our unity is based on thinking the same thing”

- Roger H.

**Verse 5 “Have *this* attitude in yourselves...”**

Our unity comes from a shared source of life!

That common source of life is the only thing that allows us to have a common attitude.

## Philippians - Chapter 2 – Verses 5-7



### CONTEXT

Verses 3 and 4 - the CHARACTERISTICS of this “attitude”

Verse 5 - Jesus as the SOURCE of this “attitude”

Verses 6 through 8 - Jesus’ DEMONSTRATION of this “attitude”

Philippians - Chapter 2 – Verses 5-7



5a “Have this attitude in yourselves...”

φρονέω — is a VERB meaning “to think”

From the noun φρήν meaning “**mind**”

“the faculty of perceiving and judging” (BLB)

“the seat of intellectual and spiritual activity” (Zodhiates)

“the thing that we think with” (Miles D.)

φρονέω – to think (employing the mind; putting your mind to work and actually thinking with it.)



## Philippians - Chapter 2 – Verses 5-7

### 5a “Have this attitude in yourselves...”

Wuest translation - **“this mind be constantly having in you”** (“mind” as a noun)

Wuest alternative **“Be constantly thinking this in yourselves.”** (maintains the verb.)

My own attempt:

**“In the manner just described, be constantly thinking in yourselves...”** (Miles D.)



## Philippians - Chapter 2 – Verses 5-7

### 5b “...which was also in Christ Jesus.”

The last part of verse 5, tells us WHO has this attitude or “way of thinking”.

**Did Jesus have to *try* to be this way?**

**Daniel 4:17 ...In order that the living may know That the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind, And bestows it on whom He wishes And sets over it the lowliest of men.”**

**Zechariah 9:9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout in triumph, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; He is just and endowed with salvation, Humble, and mounted on a donkey, Even on a colt, the foal of a donkey.**



## Philippians - Chapter 2 – Verses 5-7

### Verse 5 Application

## How can we have this same attitude in ourselves?

“The sum total of the thought of the exhortation seems to be that of urging the Philippians to **emulate** in their own lives, the distinctive virtues of the Lord Jesus spoken of in 2:2-4” -Wuest

“Set in front of us is the greatest of all examples of unselfishness. It is not placed in front of us for consideration but for emulation. First, we are to **emulate** the mental attitude of Jesus Christ. Change in conduct always begins with change in attitude.

-Chester McCalley

Is this the answer???



## Philippians - Chapter 2 – Verses 5-7

### Verse 5 Application

“I find that Christ loved me, and gave Himself for me when I was in a most unattractive state; but He makes me suitable to Himself, and I am so assured of the permanency of His love and of my association with Him that my heart is free to study Him. The more I am in His company, the more I acquire the tastes and characteristics which answer to His mind.”

“There is an amazing effect of beholding the Lord’s glory. You may be transformed from some old taste without even feeling it; but you are transformed! and you cannot tell how. It is not the process that occupies you, but you are engrossed with the Lord. We are united to the glorified Lord where He is at home, and, blessed by God, that is our home, our life is there.” -J.B.S

Not “emulation” but “preoccupation”!



Philippians - Chapter 2 – Verses 5-7



**6 “who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,”**

“regard” = ἡγέομαι

Denotes a belief resting not on one's inner feeling or sentiment, but on the due consideration of external grounds, and the weighing and comparing of facts.

(BLB under synonyms)

“...and who did not after weighing the facts, consider it...”

- Wuest

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**6 “who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,”**

Jesus came in perfect submission to the will of the Father, giving no thought to His own will.

**John 6:38 "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me."**

**Galatians 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me...!**

## Philippians - Chapter 2 – Verses 5-7



**7 “but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bondservant, and being made in the likeness of men.”**

“The constant tendency is to try to improve the manner of one’s life here below by adopting Christian principles, whereas you will never arrive at it unless you start from ‘crucified with Christ.’ Then it is not thinking of what I am, but of what He is, ‘Christ liveth in me.’“ -J.B.S.

## Philippians - Chapter 2 – Verses 5-7



**7 “but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bondservant, and being made in the likeness of men.”**

**John 17:22-23**

**"The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; 23 I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.**

**Verse 26: “...so that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them”**

**John 13:34 “...Love one another, even as I have loved you...”**

**1 John 3:16 We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.**

## Philippians - Chapter 2 – Verses 5-7



### Conclusion

#### **Colossians 2:9-10**

**9 For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form,**

(In the “kenosis” Jesus never gave up full Deity!)

**10 and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority;**

(And we have been made complete in Him so that His perfect selfless love should be lived out through us.)