

Where Love Can Lead

International Bible Lesson

Philippians 2:1-13

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“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God” (Philippians 2:5, 6—KJV).

“The attitude you should have is the one that Christ Jesus had: He always had the nature of God, but he did not think that by force he should try to remain equal with God” (Philippians 2:5, 6—GNB).

“Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited” (Philippians 2:5, 6—NRSV).

God wants everyone to share the same ultimate intention in all they do by having the same mind that was in Christ Jesus instead of acting primarily from selfish ambition and pride. Selfishness can lead people to abuse, offend, or take unfair advantage of others. If everyone acted wisely from an ultimate intention of love, the same love that Jesus Christ showed on Earth, the same love that Jesus Christ wants to pour into every human heart, then everyone could work together in substantial harmony, promote the best interests of others as well as their own, and achieve God’s purposes.

To live and work together with the same mind, people need to look to Jesus Christ and learn to think and intend as Jesus Christ thought and intended. Even though Jesus Christ was “in the form of God” and enjoyed “equality with God,” Jesus never exploited or took selfish advantage over others because of His position as the Son of God, the Son of the Owner of the universe. Instead, Jesus used His position to come to Earth “in human form” and serve humanity in the “form of a slave.” He humbled himself and died on a cross to save all of God’s children from their sins and prepare them for an eternal life with their Father and His Son. No wonder God the Father exalted Jesus so that “at the name of Jesus every knee should bow” and “every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Philippians 2:10, 11).

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Thinking Further

1. How can a church or a family live “in full accord and of one mind”?
2. How can a Christian avoid acting from selfish ambition in the competitive worlds of business and sports?
3. How would you compete with someone who looked out only for his own interests?
4. What was the mind that was in Christ Jesus?
5. Read Philippians 2:6 again in various translations. Which translation or translations do you like the best? Give a reason for your answer.

Read the verse by verse commentary on this lesson at the BibleLessonForum.com. See the recommended study and worship resources at SmallChurchResources.com.