

Not Your Typical Life

Philippians 2:1-11

1. Explanation of what the mind of Christ is (2:1-4)

Don't push your way to the front; don't sweet talk your way to the top. — The Message

Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead. Don't be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand. — The Message

2. Illustration of how the mind of Christ looks like (2:6-8)

Jesus existing as God did not use his divine status as a tool to exploit for his own advantage.

“In Christ Jesus God has thus shown his true nature; this is what it means for Christ to be “equal with God”—to pour himself out for the sake of others and to do so by taking the role of a slave...Here is the epitome of God-likeness: the pre-existent Christ was not a “grasping, selfish” being, but one whose love for others found its consummate expression in “pouring himself out,” in taking on the role of a slave...Hereby he not only reveals the character of God, but from the perspective of the present context also reveals what it means for us to be created in God’s image, to bear his likeness and have his “mindset.” It means taking the role of the slave for the sake of others.” (Gordon D. Fee, Paul’s Letter to the Philippians, The New International Commentary on the New Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm.B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1995), 214)

3. Motivation to put on the the mind of Christ as a lifestyle (2:9-11)