

FBC TODAY

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MAIN SERVICE

[Physical & Youtube]

Sundays 8:45am / 11:15am

YOUTH SERVICE

[Physical]

Sundays 9:00am

SUNDAY SCHOOL

For Ages 3 to 12

(Preschool to std 6)

Physical Classes

8:45am / 11:15am

IMITATING CHRIST: His Meekness is His Majesty

Most believers truly want to imitate Christ. You desire to demonstrate a Christ-like attitude in all you say and do, yet you frequently fall short of the mark. And then you beat yourself up when you fall short, but that is not what God wants you to do. In a letter to the Corinthians church, Apostle Paul stated, "Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ." (1 Cor 11:1 ESV). We do not know how Apostle Paul planned his letters when he wrote them, but we do know one thing about how he wrote: he frequently responded to actual questions or areas

of difficulty that he was aware of. This can be seen in his letters to the Corinthians, where he addresses specific issues such as divisions within the church and questions about marriage etc. Paul's approach to addressing real-life concerns shows his intention to provide practical guidance and support to the early Christian communities he was writing to. By addressing these specific challenges, Paul ensured that his letters were relevant and applicable to the situations faced by his readers.



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Similarly, Apostle Paul also wrote to the Philippians but this time he added the attributes of Christ by stating, "Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

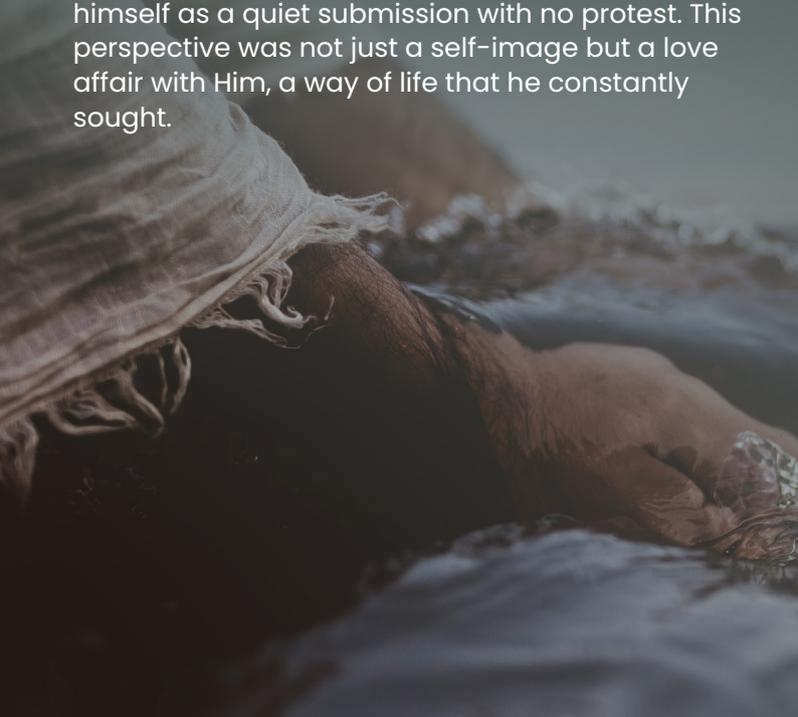
And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore, God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Philippians 2:5-11; ESV). The passage beautifully captures the essence of Christ's humility and exaltation, reminding us of the depth of his love and sacrifice. It serves as a powerful reminder for believers to imitate Christ's example in our own lives, embracing humility and selflessness.

To gain a better understanding of this phrase in particular, "Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus," consider three characteristics: attitude, initiative, and motivation. Firstly, by attitude, Paul explains that Jesus took on the nature of a servant throughout his life, viewing himself as a quiet submission with no protest. This perspective was not just a self-image but a love affair with Him, a way of life that he constantly sought.



This perspective, passion, and drive for Jesus are what we should strive for in ourselves. It is a way of life that Jesus lived, and it is the way we are meant to live from now on. We may try living like this for a week or take a break, but we will never have Christ's mentality in us until it becomes a perspective, passion, and desire that we live 24 hours a day, every day, with nothing has changed. This is the way we are meant to live, and we must strive to live in this way to truly live in Christ's image.

The second quality is initiative. Christlike initiative involves a thoughtful evaluation of the potential sacrifices and risks involved before taking an action. It entails a willingness to step out of our comfort zones and embrace challenges. It requires us to push past our fears and limitations, trusting in God's guidance as we venture into uncharted territories. This passage from Philippians highlights the humility and selflessness of Jesus, who willingly gave up His divine status to become human. It serves as a reminder for Christians to emulate this mindset of surrendering our own desires and ambitions for the greater purpose of serving God and others. By willingly becoming a servant, Jesus showed us the importance of putting others before ourselves and prioritizing their needs. This act of humility and surrender serves as a powerful example for Christians to follow in their own lives, reminding us to set aside our own desires and ambitions in order to serve God and others wholeheartedly.



Thirdly, motivation. In the Gospel of John, Jesus often spoke about His Father with deep respect and love, emphasizing the importance of their bond. Through His teachings and actions, it becomes evident that Jesus' motivation stemmed from a profound desire to honor and carry out His Father's will.

This intimate connection between Jesus and His Father serves as a powerful example for us to understand the driving force behind His actions and teachings. He put it like this, for example, in John 5:30, *"I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me."*

So, brothers and sisters in Christ, imitating Christ involves walking in love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us. This means putting others before ourselves, showing kindness and compassion, and being willing to sacrifice for the sake of others. By embodying these qualities, we can truly reflect the character of Christ and bring glory to God in all that we do. As Paul stated in Ephesians, *"I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace,"* (Ephesians 4:1-3; ESV).



By Peter Raj

Peter is attached to Saujana Life Group



PrayerSpotlight

Prayer for Haven

1. 3 minutes video to recruit field workers – God'screativity upon Fred & team; God to use the lips of Joanne, Jamie, Lazarus, Boon Yen and Mei Yoke to recruit field workers.
2. HAVEN/KAIROS Evangelistic Evening Event on 17 December 2023 – Pray that every attendees will bring an un-churched friend to the event.
3. Mission Conference— God's heartbeat to come forth in the 45 minutes workshop, for His name to be lifted up in the message, pray for Karen.