

Quarter One: Uniting Heaven & Earth: Christ in Philippians & Colossians

Jill Morikone

Lesson 4—Unity through Humility

Wednesday: The Mind of Christ

January 21, 2026

- **Last Week:** “Life and Death”
 - Phil 1:19 – 30
 - Trust in God in the life allotted to us; working together in the body of Christ in unity
- **This Week:** “Unity through Humility”
 - Phil 2:1 – 8; 4:8
 - Biblical basis for unity in the church
 - The humility of Christ in contrast to Satan’s pride – our call as believers to humility

Memory Text: “Fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind” (Phil 2:2, NKJV)

The week in brief:

- 1. **Sunday:** Disunity in Philippi (John D)
 - Phil 2:1 – 3 – the problems in the Philippian Church & Paul’s counsel as a remedy
- 2. **Monday:** The Source of Unity (Ryan)
 - Phil 2:3, 4 – unity of faith & Christlikeness inside us (not just outward conformity) are both essential in developing unity in the body of Christ
- 3. **Tuesday:** Mind Implant or Mind Surgery? (John L)
 - Phil 2:5 – change of mind & change of heart
- 4. **Wednesday:** The Mind of Christ (Jill)
 - Phil 2:5 – 8 – Christ’s amazing condescension to die for us; the mind of Christ & how we as believer can possess that, as well
- 5. **Thursday:** The Mystery of Godliness (James)
 - Phil 2:5 – 8 – Christ’s amazing condescension to take on our human nature

Wednesday: The Mind of Christ

Phil 2:5 – 8; Heb 4:15; Heb 5:8; Gal 3:13; Matt 23:11, 12; Phil 2:3

- Roman hierarchical society structure
 - Top = Roman emperor, his family
 - Next = wealthy Patricians (wealthy landowners who were members of senatorial class)
 - Next = Equestrian order (wealthy business people / merchant class)
 - Next = Plebians was largest class (common people - artisans, merchants, farmers - who could gain rights over time)
 - Next = Freedmen (former slaves, who had been freed; status lower than a full citizen)
 - Bottom = Slaves (no rights or status; could be bought, sold, or abused)

- Distinctions between classes
 - Higher a person's rank in society, the more privilege & honor they received
 - Different classes dressed differently – immediately apparent what class they belonged to
 - Women – no matter what class – possessed almost no rights

7 takeaways of the mind of Christ

- Christ's order is opposite
 - Mark 10:42 – 45 – “But Jesus called them (the disciples) to Himself and said to them, ‘You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. (43) Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. (44) And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. (45) For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.’”
 - Christ's government is opposite that of Satan's
 - **Takeaway #1:** Leaders – and Christians - are defined by servanthood
 - Satan's world = pride (Isa 14 – desire to be like the Most High)
 - But he didn't want to be like God because God is self-sacrificing
 - Satan just desired the position of God
 - **Takeaway #2:** Leaders - & Christians – are defined by character, not position
- Phil 2:5 – “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,”
 - The greatest example of love, self-denial, & service on behalf of others is Jesus Christ
 - What is the mind of Christ? (“let this mind”)
 - Vs 3 & 4 = an unselfish mind, a mind that considers others before Himself
 - **Takeaway #3:** Leaders - & Christians – are defined by unselfishness & considering others before self
 - Assume others have good intentions (don't assume the worst)
 - Seek to discover good qualities in others
 - Treat others with respect – not just those higher in society or those you're seeking to impress
 - Don't assume your time, money, energy, or opinion is more valuable than your neighbor's
 - When making a decision, consider how it affects other people
 - Watch for needs in others & seek to fill them (*Angela)
 - Encourage others – privately, and in public
 - Guard your heart against a critical, condemnatory spirit
 - Pray for others
 - Consider that everything you have or are is a gift from God
- Phil 2:6 – “who, being in **the form** of God, did not consider it **robbery** to be equal with God,”
 - The form = Gk, *mor-fay* = designates the very nature of a person & consequently identifies Jesus as having the nature of God
 - Adam & Eve desired divine power (Gen 3), but they were only created in God's image
 - Jesus was the very nature of God, because He was God Himself

- John 1:1 – “In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God & the Word was God.”
- Robbery = Gk, used only here in Bible – “something to be used for one’s own advantage” or “something to take advantage of”
 - Jesus Christ, even though He was fully divine, didn’t use His divine nature for His own advantage
- **Takeaway #4:** Leaders - & Christians – don’t use their position for personal gain or advantage
- Phil 2:7 – “but made Himself of no reputation, taking **the form** of a **bondservant**, and coming in the likeness of men.”
 - The form = Gk, *mor-fay*’ = designates the very nature of a person & consequently identifies Jesus as possessing the nature of man
 - Jesus = fully divine; fully human at the incarnation
 - Bondservant = *doo-los*’ = Jesus identified with the lowest of the low, the slave; someone who belongs to another, without any ownership rights of their own
 - Used with the highest dignity in the NT, namely of believers who *willingly* live under Christ’s authority as His devoted followers
 - **Takeaway #5:** Leaders - & Christians – willingly serve Jesus, as their Master
 - Serve Jesus, not
 - Self – pride, selfishness, stubbornness
 - Others – people pleasing – catering to some & snubbing others
 - Position or power
 - Money or wealth
- Phil 2:8 – “And being found **in appearance** as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.”
 - “in appearance” = Gk, designates not just outward look but also the inner nature
 - Christ was fully divine, yet also took nature of a humble Servant
 - Christ = Suffering Servant (Isa, Servant songs)
 - Christ humbled Himself to death on the cross
 - Gal 3:13 – “Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, ‘Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree’).”
 - He died on the cross (took our curse) in order to be our Redeemer
 - Substitutionary atonement = wages of sin = death / gift of God = eternal life
 - Christ took our punishment / He took our place
 - 2 Cor 5:21 – God made Jesus, who knew no sin, to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him
 - **Takeaway #6:** Leaders - & Christians – are willing to suffer so others can be free
 - John 15:13 – “Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.”

- **Takeaway #7:** Leaders - & Christians – sacrifice & serve for Jesus Christ
 - We don't serve for accolades or approval of men
 - We serve with humility for Christ's sake & His alone
 - 1 John 4:19 – we love because He first loved us

7 takeaways of the mind of Christ

- **#1:** Leaders – & Christians - are defined by servanthood
- **#2:** Leaders - & Christians – are defined by character, not position
- **#3:** Leaders - & Christians – are defined by unselfishness & considering others before self
- **#4:** Leaders - & Christians – don't use their position for personal gain or advantage
- **#5:** Leaders - & Christians – willingly serve Jesus, as their Master
- **#6:** Leaders - & Christians – are willing to suffer so others can be free
- **#7:** Leaders - & Christians – sacrifice & serve for Jesus Christ