

January 1, 2016

Christ Church Anglican, Phoenix, AZ

Biblical Reference: Philippians 2:5-11

## How Is Christlikeness Formed in Me?

- + Philippians 2:5-11 is a significant passage about the Person of Christ.
- + It is also a significant passage about us! We know this by the word "Let".
- + In Scripture, a command form alerts to us to an area where we are responsible to act.
- + In our lives as Christians, it is crucial to distinguish between ...
  - What God does—we respond by choosing to rely on him (faith).
  - What we are responsible to do—we respond by choosing to obey.
- + We are to "let" the "mind of Christ" be formed in us!

### 1 - **What is the "mind of Christ"?**

- + He emptied himself—surrendered the independent exercise of his will.
- + He chose not to live the self-life. Man's sin originated with the self-life.
- + He chose the God-centered life. This is the life we were created to live.
- + He humbled himself.
- + He became obedient; biblical faith is expressed by obedience.
- + ***The mind of Christ is Christlikeness.***

### 2 - **I cannot choose Christlikeness directly;** I am too malformed by sin.

- + The "mind" is made up of thoughts and emotions.
- + My emotions can overrule my thoughts and my will.
- + The soul can overrule everything else.
- + This is why New Year's resolution don't work. They misunderstand the limits of the will.

### 3 - **But I am able to choose a process** that forms Christlikeness in me.

- + Life with Christ is about the kind of person I am becoming.
- + It is will, souls, thoughts, emotions, bodies, relationships being re-formed.

### 4 - **This process of formation takes place in discipleship to Jesus.**

- + As Jesus' disciple, I let him teach me how human life works.
- + I am with Jesus, to learn from Jesus, how to be like Jesus.
- + The results in me over time: insight, healing, maturity, fulfillment, love.

### 5 - **God exalted him**