

Deadly Preferences - Philippians 2:5-11

The function of churches is to reach its community for Christ. If we're to grow, not subsist, there are things that have to be changed or modified. These may include: music styles, the order of worship, ministries taking the place of activities and programs. The Trinity is the Father, Son, and the Holy Ghost - not me, myself, and I.

5: Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

Christ is our ultimate example of selfless humility (Matthew 11:29).

6: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

The Greek word "being" is the essence of a person's nature or condition not merely their "existence".

The Greek word "form" specifically denotes the unchanging character of someone or something.

The Greek phrase "not robbery" means anything clutched, embraced, seized, or prized. Jesus had the rights, privileges, and honors of Deity.

7: But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

The Greek word "kenosis" means an emptying of self. Through Jesus' taking the form of humanity He temporarily set aside His heavenly glory and His independent authority by submitting Himself completely to the Father. He was fully man and fully God.

8: And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the Cross.

We now shift focus from a heavenly focus to an earthly focus. Christ's humanity is described from the viewpoint of those who saw Him during His earthly ministry. He did not demand normal human rights but voluntarily subjected Himself to suffering and persecution by the hands of unbelievers. Jesus endured humiliation in dying as criminal's death by the edict of wicked men (Hebrews 12:2). This was the most barbarous, excruciating, and degrading form of death devised by man. He fulfilled God's plan of redemption on the Cross.

9: Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name:

Christ's humiliation and exaltation are inextricably linked. We see Him in His resurrection and ascension, coronation, and as the Intercessor for all believers past, present, and future.

10: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

God told Joseph and Mary to name Him Jesus (Matthew 1:21).

11: And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The universe is called to worship Jesus Christ as Lord (Psalm 2). This is a mandate not an option.

This confession acknowledges His right to rule, His ownership and mastery over everything, and His ultimate, sovereign authority.

Conclusion: We are to be conformed to Christ (Romans 8:29). We are not to be verse 21 people, "For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's". We are to be obedient not self-centered.

We need to ask Him what we need to alter, change, or abandon as a Church.

Notes: