

WORD

⁵In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: ⁶Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; ⁷rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled himself by becoming obedient to death even death on a cross! PHILIPPIANS 2:5-8

WHAT

Sacrificing benefits, comfort, and treasures for others is difficult; our default is to consider our good above others. However, real leadership does not seek the perks that come with the role but even takes on some uncalled-for costs and burdens. Jesus has shown us a perfect example of this. How did Jesus lead through sacrifice?

1 In terms of who He is

Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage . . . PHILIPPIANS 2:6

Jesus is God, the Second Person in the Trinity, and yet His stature, power, and glory are not the center of His concern. Who He is does not get in the way of what He needs to do. He thinks of our benefit, not His. How do the magnitude of God’s being and the greatness of His affection affect your thinking? How do you think should you think of yourself and others?

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2 In terms of what He took on

. . . rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. PHILIPPIANS 2:7

Jesus took on human form in the same way that a master takes on a servant’s role. Not only did He acquire human characteristics and lived among us, He became one of us (Hebrews 2:14). The attitude of a leader is one that stoops down and identifies with those whom s/he leads. How far are we willing to go for the sake of others?

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3 In terms of the price He paid

And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death even death on a cross! PHILIPPIANS 2:8

The cross was not only an execution but also an experience of extreme physical pain and utter shame (Hebrews 12:2,3). Not only did Christ bear the unwarranted cost but also He paid the highest price. Can any cost we pay in life ever compare to what Jesus paid? What are the heavy burdens people carry? How does the truth of Christ’s sacrifice lighten the load for us?

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