

Philippians 2:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus (Τοῦτο φρονεῖτε ἐν ὑμῖν ὁ καὶ ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ, Touto phroneite en hymin ho kai en Christō Iēsou)—Touto phroneite ("think this, have this mindset") summons the Christ-pattern as ethical paradigm. Phroneō ("to think, set one's mind on") isn't mere intellect but dispositional orientation—affections, values, priorities. En hymin ("in/among you") suggests both individual mindset and corporate culture.

The standard: ho kai en Christō Iēsou ("which also [was] in Christ Jesus")—Christ's mindset becomes the believer's template. What follows (vv. 6-11) is likely a pre-Pauline Christian hymn Paul quotes/adapts to ground his ethical appeal. This transitions from exhortation (2:1-4) to christological foundation (2:6-11) back to application (2:12-18). Ethics flow from Christology; the indicative (who Christ is) grounds the imperative (how we live). The Christ-hymn is theology's highest summit and ethics' deepest foundation.

Historical Context

Verses 6-11 likely circulated as an early Christian hymn or creed, possibly predating Paul's letter. Its rhythmic structure, theological density, and unique vocabulary suggest liturgical origins. Paul applies corporate worship material to ethical instruction—a pattern throughout his letters. Christ's example wasn't abstract theology but sung, celebrated, embodied reality shaping community life. Early Christian worship was profoundly theological.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What does it mean for Christ's 'mind' (phronēma) to shape your thinking and affections?
2. How does worship (singing theology) shape ethics more powerfully than mere instruction?
3. In what specific situations this week can you adopt Christ's mindset from verses 6-11?

Interlinear Text

τοῦτο	γὰρ	φρονεῖσθω	ἐν	ὑμῖν	ο	καὶ	ἐν	Χριστῷ
this	G1063	Let	in	you	which	was also	in	Christ
G5124		G5426	G1722	G5213	G3739	G2532	G1722	G5547

'Ιησοῦ

Jesus
G2424

Additional Cross-References

1 John 2:6 (Parallel theme): He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.

Matthew 11:29 (Parallel theme): Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

1 Peter 2:21 (References Christ): For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

1 Peter 4:1 (References Christ): Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin;

Ephesians 5:2 (References Christ): And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.

Romans 15:5 (References Jesus): Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus:

Acts 20:35 (References Jesus): I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.

Romans 15:3 (References Christ): For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me.

Luke 22:27 (Parallel theme): For whether is greater, he that sitteth at meat, or he that serveth? is not he that sitteth at meat? but I am among you as he that serveth.

Romans 14:15 (References Christ): But if thy brother be grieved with thy meat, now walkest thou not charitably. Destroy not him with thy meat, for whom Christ died.