

**Sovereign Grace Church**  
**“The Mind of Christ” outline**  
January 1, 2017

**Philippians 2: 1-11**

*Periodically it is useful to pause from our busy lives and the many things of which this busyness consists and reflect upon what the busyness is all about! Is this busyness unto an adequate end or have we lost sight of the end in the process and energy taken to pursue it?! Why do we do what we do? Does the why make a difference? Are we experiencing fulfillment as a result of our actions? Would we be generally characterized as people experiencing frustration, depression and anxiety or as people experiencing a deep joy, contentment and hope? Does being a Christian make a difference? Should it?*

*This morning as we begin this brand spanking new year we will consider these questions from the standpoint of control. Does being in control bring peace, tranquility and ease of mind? Because I am a “me,” must I be in control to have genuine fulfillment? Or must my will be subservient to Another?*

*This morning we will look at Philippians 2 and Paul's discussion of the “mind of Christ” as a necessary ingredient for our spiritual welfare and a fulfilled & joy-filled life.....not only for the individual but for the church as well.*

**1. The Command to Follow Christ. v.5**

**I Cor. 6:20; 12:13; Eph. 5:23; Col. 1:9-10**

**2. Christ's Example Jn 6: 38**

- **Who is Christ? v.6**  
**Jn 1:1,14**

- **Christ emptied Himself v.7**  
**Col. 2:9**

- **His humility in His willingness to conceal His identity**  
**II Cor. 5:21; 8:9; Isa 53:3; Heb. 5:8**

- His humility in His suffering and death v.8  
Gal. 3:13; Matt. 27:46; Matt. 12:40

3. What is our response? 1:27

- Christ humbled Himself in pursuit of the Father's pleasure. Jn 5:30
- So we must humble ourselves in pursuit of Christ's pleasure.  
I Jn 1:10-11;3;14;Jn 14:15; 13:35; 17:21

Questions for Discussion and Conversation

1. How are you doing in your walk with Jesus? ARE you walking with Him? What does it mean to “walk” with anyone? What does it mean to walk with Him?
2. Have you grown spiritually this past year? What does it mean to undergo spiritual growth? Are there any markers that may be used in measuring such growth? What might they be? Can others be of assistance in this evaluation? Can you take their humble criticism unto this end?
3. Can you think of anyone who seems to have issues with “control”? How is their effort to control their lives experienced by those with whom their lives consist? What does Galatians 5 mean when Paul talks about one of the fruits of the Spirit as being “self-control”? If “self-control” is good, how can it be right to give up control of our lives to Christ?
4. Why do most people who are happy and fulfilled seem to not be aware that they are happy and fulfilled? Can one be happy and seek happiness at the same time?! Can one be fulfilled and seek fulfillment at the same time?! What is the problem here?
5. In what areas of your life would you like to see improvement this year? What can you do to help bring this improvement about? Can others be of help? If such improvement is only given by grace, can you do anything about it? Is grace opposed to effort....or to merit? What is the difference? What is the difference between not being saved by our works and being saved unto our works? (Eph. 2: 8-10)