

Learning Christ's Submissive Mind - Philippians 2:1-15

Being perfect for Penny (Down syndrome), means becoming the mature, complete person that is possible for her. Being perfect is not about physique, intelligence or abilities. It is about meekness, sorrow and longing for God beyond our limits, sins or brokenness.

Pastor Les came to realize that he also entered into life with numerous emotional and spiritual syndromes that have debilitated him in a similar way as Down syndrome debilitates Penny. He is Penny, but with different syndromes.

The journey into Christ hinges on a series of 'yieldings' to Christ. These 'moments' of surrender are the foundation of the journey into Christ-likeness.

A moment of insight revealed the root problem, a ruling principle: living with _____ of heart. One of the "Seven Deadly Sins," this heart attitude:

- rose from early _____
- rose from _____
- expressed through _____ and defensiveness
- expressed through _____ and keeping score
- rose from a sense of _____
- rose from a sense of _____

⁵ In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to cling to or to be used to his own advantage; ⁷ rather, he made himself nothing (gave up his divine privileges) by taking the humble position of a slave, and was born as a human being. ⁸ When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross! (Phil. 2:5-8)

As our model of the submissive mind, Jesus did the following:

1. He yielded to the Father's Plan to redeem humankind; refusing to _____.
2. He _____; making himself nothing. (ekenosen = emptied)
3. He _____ to be a slave, and to be born a human.
4. He submitted to the human _____, so as to conquer death (the last enemy).

Following Jesus into the submissive mind yields a harvest of humility.

Two "checkpoints" on our journey into the submissive mind:

1. Do nothing out of selfish ambition (vs. 3)
Stop asking: What's _____?
2. Do nothing out of vain conceit (vs. 3).
Stop asking: How _____?

To bring glory to the Father, we must regularly yield the things that are to our own advantage. In dying thus, we learn the submissive mind. Journeying to the cross to die to expressions of grandiosity and personal advantage; the Father receives the glory.

Application:

1. Take an inventory. Listen to the Spirit's diagnosis or your root (heart) issue or issues.
2. Accept His diagnosis! Tell the Father that you accept what the Spirit is showing you.
3. Take a posture (mental and/or physical) of submission, and do what the Spirit tells you to do.