

# Practical Christianity

## Lesson Seven Notes: "Growing in Favor with God and Man" by Tony Edwards

### Introduction

We find these words in Luke 2:52, "And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and men." While on earth our Lord grew or increased in His life. He grew in four areas: Wisdom, Stature, Favor with God, and Favor with Men. What a great testimony to His purpose here on earth. And what was Jesus' purpose? Simple; Jesus said "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work."

If we are to grow like Jesus grew, our entire focus in life must be to do the will of God. Like Jesus, we should strive to increase our favorability in the eyes of men and God. You can't look good in the eyes of God without looking good in the eyes of men. The way to do this is to convert our image into the image of Jesus. That's what we are going to work on from this point forward.

Lesson Text- Philippians 2:5-15

### I. Our Minds Must Conform to the Mind of Christ—2:5

- A. Paul very clearly states that our mind must match Christ's mind.
- B. This simply means that we must convert our minds.
  - 1. Webster says the word conform means: to be similar or identical; to be in agreement or harmony: to be obedient or compliant: to act in accordance with prevailing standards or customs.
  - 2. So, to conform our minds to the mind of Christ means we are willing to match up with the standard of living He has set.
  - 3. It means we are willing to comply or be in agreement with the way Jesus lived His life.
- C. Notice, Paul did not say this is something that you "can" do.
- D. No, Paul says this is something that you must do—"Let."
- E. Ask yourself some questions:
  - 1. Are you willing to push yourself aside?
  - 2. Are you willing to push your attitude aside?
  - 3. Are you willing to push your desires aside?
  - 4. Are you willing to push your life aside?
  - 5. Are you willing to do all of these things just so you can create WITHIN YOURSELF the type of person that not only Christ will be pleased with but that the people around you can be pleased with?
  - 6. If you answered "no" to ANYONE of these, you are not ready to do what Paul said do in Philippians 2:5.

7. If you answered “yes” to ALL of these, you are ready to start do what Paul did.

1. Galatians 2:20
2. 2 Corinthians 5:15

F. This is the attitude and type of focus that you must have in order to change your mind into the mind of Christ.

## **II. Humility is the One Ingredient to Conforming Our Minds to Christ’s Mind—2:6-11**

A. Read 2:6-11

B. List some ways in which Jesus showed humility.

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

C. This is the type of humility we must have in order to begin forming our minds into the mind of Christ.

D. Many times our own selfish ambitions in life are placed before Jesus.

E. It takes a person with great humility to say, “No, I’m going to forget about myself and focus totally on what my Lord wants me to do or be.”

## **III. Humility causes us to be like Jesus, which in turn affects our relationship with the world in a positive way—We grow in favor with them—2:12-15**

A. When we start to possess the mind of Jesus, we automatically begin to affect those around us.

B. Our speech, behavior, and everything about what we should be become known as...

1. Blameless
2. Harmless
3. Without Fault
4. Shining as lights

C. These are qualities are in direct contrast with the way of the world.

1. Crooked
2. Perverse

## **IV. Conclusion**

In order for us to begin to change the world around us we must first begin to change ourselves. To do this we must have a willingness to want to change. To do this we must have humility. Once we have the humility to change then we can begin the process of producing within our lives the “Fruit” of the Spirit.