



# THRIVING – Living with the attitude of Christ

## 18 September 2020

### Mark Wiltshire

This Study Guide provides a summarised study with additional discussion questions based on the scriptures mentioned in the sermon.

#### Connect:

**“Circumstances do not make you what you are, they reveal what you are.”**  
John Maxwell

1. How/When is the real you revealed?
2. What can this trigger?
3. What have been some of your most significant learning experiences, and what were the circumstances?

#### Engage:

4. Read and discuss [Philippians 2:5-11](#)
5. Why is attitude important?
6. What does [Philippians 2:5-6](#) mean?
  - The NLT draws out the nature of what the verse is saying from an ‘attitude’ perspective.
  - Other versions draw out the ‘collective responsibility’ perspective:

**v5 (ESV) “Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,”**

- We already have this mind. We just need to let it out and express what is already there!!

V6 (NLT) "Though he was God (in very nature 'essence' God), He did not think of equality with God as something to cling to."

- A Sublime summary of Christ's PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE
- Jesus - God before He was man! (not simply a prophet, teacher, miracle worker)
- Form, nature, status, dignity, and the glory of God
- The highest of all majesty, authority was His (3 in 1)
- False religions / cults challenge the divinity of Christ
- He chose not to 'cling to' an equality what was already his!!

Greek: harpagmos - seized, snatched at

- Human beings by nature cling on to what they have...

## Framework:

7. What do you cling to in life?
8. What are the things you feel you could never let go of?
9. Read [Colossians 1:19](#)

**"Our attitudes will ultimately shape our future."**

Pastor Mark Wiltshire

10. Why is this true?

**"Weakness of attitude becomes weakness of character."**

Albert Einstein

11. What example of this can you think of in the bible?

**"Our attitudes will close doors or attitudes can open doors."**

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12. How can a bad attitude close doors of opportunity in life?

- Attitudes: Have very real power:
  - Picked up** instantly... even before we speak
  - Produce** an atmosphere that others can feel
  - Provoke** responses...ignite fires!
- A bad attitude constantly finds fault
- A good attitude makes life fun and lifts others
- Produce FAITH or FRUSTRATION

13. How has a bad attitude affected your life?

14. Bad reactions affect others! Here's a suggestion from Pastor Mark on how to AVOID BAD REACTIONS:

- *Start the day in the "Right Place with God"*
- *To be ready for what might come... unexpectedly.*

**"... let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes"**

Eph 4:23 NLT

15. Reread [Philippians 2:7-8](#); why did Jesus empty Himself?

16. There is a pattern that can be seen in Philippians 2:7-8, what pattern can be seen?

17. How much unnecessary 'stuff' do you have in your life?

18. Read [James 4:6](#)

19. The Enemy of Humility is Pride:

- God actively opposes all Pride - anything that puts us first
- His limitless Humility has been the vehicle for our restoration

20. If you struggle with **forgiveness**? [Ephesians 4:32](#)

21. If you struggle with **patience**? [2 Peter 3:9](#)

22. If you struggle with **generosity**? [Romans 5:8](#)

23. If you struggle with **difficult people**? [Luke 6:35](#)

24. What is the nature of pride?

**"Pride ends in humiliation, while humility brings honour."**

Proverbs 29:23 NLT

25. What is the nature of grace?

26. **Danger Signs of Pride** (The following areas should be considered):

- *Need to be important* - [Galatians 6:3](#)
- *Argumentative* - [Luke 9:46](#)
- *Anger / Self-justifying* - [James 1:20](#)
- *Irritable / Impatient* – [1 Corinthians 13:5](#)
- *Boastful* – [2 Timothy 3:2](#)
- *Stubbornness* - [Mark 16:14](#)
- *Comparing* – [2 Corinthians 10:12](#)

27. Do you see signs of pride in your own life? What are they?

28. What are some of the signs of deep-rooted pride in your life?

29. Jesus demonstrated His attitude of humility and serving:

- He washed the disciple's feet
- Profound conversation with Peter ([John 13](#))
- Contrast to disciples, who had argued together about "who was the greatest..." ([Luke 9](#))

30. Are you truly humble and willing to serve?

31. Read [Matthew 24:45-47](#)

32. What is God's response to serving faithfully?

33. What happens for those who are faithful?

34. Read [Philippians 2:9-11](#)

## Conclusion:

- The incredible 'pattern' that Jesus displayed:
- **He... "Emptied, Served, Humbled, Obeyed, Died, Elevated!"**
- "Jesus poured OUT – Father Poured IN" (Overflow)
- Jesus "poured out" so that WE CAN THRIVE in life and eternity. To THRIVE, humility and a servant heart are central.
- We will Thrive when we pattern our lives on 'Attitude of Christ'