

# O for a Thousand Lives to Live!



## Sermon Goal

That we would manifest with our lives the gospel we proclaim with our lips.



## Sermon Text

Phil 2:1-11

→ “Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus” (v. 5).



## Big Idea

Because we have an incarnational Christ we ought to be an incarnational church.

### (1) The Incarnational Church (vv. 1-5a)

We are those who have benefitted from Christ’s redemptive accomplishments. V. 1 connects us to the gospel and our salvation in it. We know His encouragement, His love, His Spirit. But Paul turns from there towards our renovation. If you know these things, it’s going to change you! If you read Luk 1-2 and you know this Christ, it’s going to change you! You’re going to start to look like Him!

V. 5 is the hinge upon which this entire text turns. Here is the link between the incarnational church and the incarnational Christ. We can have the mind of Christ, because of our union with Christ. We must never divorce renovation from redemption. When we call Him our Example, we do not mean to imply that we follow behind Him in our own strength. May it never be! We are able to follow the example of Christ only because we have the Spirit of Christ

### (2) The Incarnational Christ (vv. 5b-11)

Before we can comprehend the depth of His love and grace in the incarnation (“form of a servant”), we must comprehend the height of His glory and stature in His pre-incarnate state (“form of God”). But even still, there is really no way to conceive of the humility and love of our Lord in His incarnation. All we are left with is pathetic analogies. The incarnation is like the sun surrendering its glory to become a candle that it might light the way for a man. It’s like the Pacific ocean surrendering its majesty to become a glass of water that it might refresh the thirst of a man. It’s like the mighty Everest surrendering its place at the top of the world to become a mere foundation slab upon which a man can build a home for his family. And these analogies are nothing compared to the reality that the eternally existing and infinitely ascendant Son of God surrendered His place in glory as God to become our servant.

This text is a descending staircase for the Son. He starts in the form of God, but He steps down into humanity; but not just any humanity, He steps down further into the form of a servant; but not just any servant, He steps down further to be a suffering servant who will be obedient to the point of death; but not just any death, He steps down further to surrender Himself to death on a cross.

But in the resurrection the Father flips the descending staircase on its head and the way down is shown truly to have been the way up! The depths of the Son’s shame become the height of His glory!



## Critical Action

Move towards one person this week that you would have otherwise run from. Ask questions, care, weep when they weep, rejoice when they rejoice. In your incarnational love, lead them to your incarnational Christ.



## Reflection Questions

- Why should the church look like the incarnation? Didn’t Jesus do all these things so we don’t have to?
- What keeps you from living the incarnational life? What would help? How does your crucifixion with Christ precede your incarnation in love for others? Explain. Do you believe God will be there for you in the end? How would that free you to love with abandon?