

Sermon ~ Sunday, February 20, 2022, by Pastor, Dwight Benoit

Text: Philippians 2: 5-8

Title: "Mind Yourself!"

The *Mothers* of old use to selectively say as we would leave the house for School, Church, the Jefferson Theater (Movies) are, to a House Party in the Projects... "Now, **Mind Yourself!**"

What they meant was, "be *mindful* of what you *do*," [*mindful*, aware of and careful about]. Because I'll know... I'll \*#X!!!... You will have to answer to what you *do*, *say*, or have *done*.

**Mind Yourself!** They meant what they said, no matter *your age*—**Mind yourself!**

Surely if you were '*manage*' that is, *unruly, disrespectful*—smelling yourself, *know* everything, gossiper, like attention, foolishly ambitious—**Mind Yourself!**

There are some Biblical warnings about **Mind Yourself!**...

"Be ye not deceived; **GOD** is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." (KJV—Galatians 6: 7)

"Don't be misled. Remember that you can't ignore **GOD** and get away with it. You will always reap what you sow!" (NLT)

"The wicked worketh a deceitful work: but to him that soweth righteousness *shall be* a sure reward." (KJV—Proverbs 11: 18)

"Evil people get rich for the moment, but the reward of the godly will last." (NLT)

"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit **The KINGdom of GOD?**

Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit **The KINGdom of GOD.**"

(KJV—I Corinthians 6: 9-10)

"Don't you know that those who do wrong will have no share in **The KINGdom of GOD?**

Don't fool yourselves. Those who indulge in sexual sin, who are idol worshipers, adulterers, male prostitutes, homosexuals, thieves, greedy people, drunkards, abusers, and swindlers—none of these will have a share in **The KINGdom of GOD.**" (NLT)

**"Mind Yourself!"**

Sis. Bessie Jones, Mary Elizabeth "Bessie" Jones, of Smithville, Georgia, wrote and sang,

You better Mind (2x's)

You got to give an account at the Judgment, You better mind!

You better mind what you're talk'in about,

You got to give an account at the Judgment, You better mind!

You better mind what you're sing'in about,

You talk'in about things you ready don't know.

Take it to yourself and **GOD** alone.

You promised **GOD** you would do... You joined the Church, but you want live right.

You got to give an account at the Judgment, You better mind!

From this *text*, the Apostle Paul points out '*society*' of the *past, today* and *tomorrow*...

That is, 'people will always seek to *climb up, high* and *higher*' on the backs of others.

The motivating cause, "pride" in everyone' heart... Paul writes,

“Is there any encouragement from belonging to **CHRIST**? Any comfort from **HIS** Love? Any fellowship together in **The SPIRIT**? Are your hearts tender and sympathetic? Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one heart and purpose. Don’t be selfish; don’t live to make a good impression on others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourself. Don’t think only about your own affairs, but be interested in others, too, and what they are doing.” (Philippians 2: 1-4)  
 [Ain’t happening! Why? PRIDE]

- When pride is a part of the equation, we see ourselves as greater than we are!
- Pride develops an unrealistic view of ourselves. All you see, is *my* abilities, *my* achievements, *my* accomplishments. You stand on this *pedestal* above everyone else. Paul said, “Don’t think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith **GOD** has given us.” (Romans 12: 3)
- Pride detaches us from the Community. [You’ve heard of this truth, “No man is an Island.” [that is, not self-sufficient... you may not need me now but you’ll call...]
- Pride creates a Critical spirit. Think about it, “Why do you see the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?”
- Pride takes Life into its own hands. “Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.” (Proverbs 16: 18)

From the *text*, **The SOLUTION**, is **The Humility of JESUS CHRIST!** **CHRIST** steps *Down* in order Rise Up! “Have this mind in you—keep thinking this way—The Way of Humility!”

Note, the Steps... Down...

1. V. 7, “...no reputation...” [Empty of Self! *Reputation* is what others think of you. *Character* is who **GOD** made you to be!]
2. V. 7, “...servant...” [True servants *obey* **CHRIST!** Are there any **CHRISTIANS** in the house? If you simply take **The Name of CHRIST (CHRISTIAN)** and call yourself **HIS** servant, yet, do not *obey* **HIM**, but follow *your own* whim, *your own* hereditary prejudice, you are no servant of **CHRIST**. “If any man would come after **ME**, let him deny himself, take of his cross and follow **ME**.”]
3. V. 7, “...in the likeness of men.” [Should we have to ask or wonder, **WHO** is your **CREATOR**? Should we have to ask, you to undress? Should we have to point in which direction, The *Men’s* room this way—The *Women’s* room that way?
4. V. 8, “...in the appearance of a man...” [a baby boy remains a baby boy although theirs a *man* in him! And, a little girl, remains a little girl although theirs a *woman* in them! Let them *be* who they are, until they *become* **WHO GOD** intended for them to *be*!]
5. V. 8, “...HE humbled HIMSELF...” [It was pride that changed *Angels* into the Devil and Demons; it is Humility that makes *men* as *Angels*!] [With pride comes many curses. But with humility comes many blessings!]
6. V. 8, “...obedience...” [I’ve learned, it’s best to do what **GOD** says, then attempt to *give* **HIM** something, I (we) don’t want!]

7. V. 8, “...death...” [Like Paul, I want to know CHRIST, not by works but by faith in HIS **RIGHTeousness—CHRIST** in me; I want know the Power of HIS Resurrection (**HIS** dying to the *Penalty of my sin, burying* it to death and *rising* to Eternal life— Galatians 2: 20; I want to be made conformable to HIS suffering: “Love my enemies, bless them that curse me, do good to them that hate me, and pray for them which despitefully use me.” (Matthew 5: 44)

**“Mind Yourself!”**