



## Philippians 2.<sup>5-11</sup>

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<sup>5</sup>Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: <sup>6</sup>who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: <sup>7</sup>but made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: <sup>8</sup>and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. <sup>9</sup>Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: <sup>10</sup>that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; <sup>11</sup>and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Reputation. *Re-pyā-'tā-shān*: 1) "Overall quality or character as seen or judged by people in general;" 2) "recognition by other people of some characteristic;" 3) "a place in public esteem or regard, good name."

We care very much about our reputation. Outside of our concern for the necessities of life our concern for reputation may be the greatest driver in how we live and how we present ourselves to others. Some would rather die than lose their "good name." So, what do we make of Jesus, a man who cared not one whit about reputation? A man who lived as a slave and died on a cross with the reputation of a criminal? How do we follow him—for follow him we must? How do we accept and adopt his mindset?

Perhaps it helps to know that Jesus, without reputation, was, in the end, "highly exalted" and "given... a name which is above every name." But I do not believe that Jesus was who he was because he was motivated by or sought after reward. Jesus was who he was because... well, that's simply who he was.

As for me, I want to be like Jesus because... well, that's the way to be. If I never get anything for it, so be it. Reputation, apparently, is over-rated, anyway. That said, no one holds a higher reputation in my mind than Jesus. I bow the knee to him every day. I very much look forward to the day when I can, in very deed, bow my knee and confess with my tongue for all the universe to hear that Jesus, the greatest of all, is "both Lord and Christ."<sup>1</sup>

Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

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<sup>1</sup> Acts 2.<sup>36</sup>