

Theological Reflections on an Outward Mindset

*In your relationships with one another, have the same **mindset** as Christ Jesus.*

(Philippians 2:5 NIV, emphasis added)

Paul then goes on in, in the famous “kenosis” passage (vv. 6-11), to explain that the mindset of Jesus was an “outward mindset” made visible in humility, service and love. Indeed, the entire chapter of Philippians 2 outlines, and gives examples of, the outward mindset:

- Do nothing out of selfish ambition (v. 3)
- Value others above yourself (v. 3)
- Look not only to your own interests, but to the interests of others (v. 4)
- Do everything without grumbling or arguing (v. 14)
- Example: Timothy — who shows genuine concern for others’ welfare (vv.19-24)
- Example: Epaphroditus — who risked his life to serve, and was concerned for those who worried about him (vv. 25-30).

We all know that we should have “the mindset of Jesus,” i.e., an outward mindset. We know intuitively that it would empower us to work collaboratively, resolve conflict, and positively influence others. What Arbinger's “Developing and Implementing an Outward Mindset” will do is give you real-life, practical tools to help you make this mindset a reality in your life.

For the Mind of Christ

Let us remember Jesus:

...who believed in people and never despaired of them.

Who through all disappointment never lost heart...

May this mind be in us which was in Christ Jesus.

Read the entire prayer in *The United Methodist Book of Worship*, No. 514