

Are We Duplicating The Master Copy?
Philippians 2:5
6/29/10

Introduction: When we want to distribute (give) a document to more than one person, we usually take the master copy and run it through the copier to make duplicates. These duplicate copies will most likely have blemishes, dots or streaks and may be copied to a different size or color, but the text or content is the same. Likewise, the Bible teaches us that we are to aim to be duplicates of our Master, Jesus Christ (**1 Corinthians 11:1**). As Christians, we come in different colors and sizes, but in content we should reflect our Master. In our lesson tonight, we are going to see how we should duplicate the Master.

Permission
(“Let this mind”)

In order to become a duplicate of the Master, we need to permit it to happen. The text says “let this mind”. Let means to grant permission, to allow, or to cause. The use of the word “let” shows that we can either **choose** to or not choose to. When we are driving, we can choose whether we will stop at a red light. In this context, the word “mind” means **attitude**. In other words, we need to allow our attitude to go through a change. Nothing changes in our lives unless we change our mind (**Proverbs 23:7**). Has anyone experienced this? If we keep doing the same thing, we will get the same **result**. How many of us have wanted to change our circumstances or certain relationships? God wants to change us through our circumstances. Sometimes we want our circumstances, other people, job, etc. to change, but we are not willing to change ourselves (**1 Corinthians 15:31b** - Paul said, “I die daily”) (**2 Corinthians 12:7-10**). So the first step is to permit and have the desire to change. If our **faith** doesn’t change us, it’s because our faith really isn’t in Jesus Christ and we need to change our faith.

Personal
(“be in you”)

The words “in you” show us that the change has to become internal and personal. “Be” means to live or exist. So, we are being asked to live (continuously) with an attitude that is **internal** and personal. But the “in” us can only happen if we are empty. A glass cannot be filled until it is empty. So, if we are already full of self, we can’t be filled with God and by God. What are some things we are full of? (**Matthew 6:24**). We need to make room for God to fill us. We need to make a deliberate effort to change our mind/attitude. When we **accept** Christ, the Holy Spirit comes and dwells in us. We have been changed from the inside (**2 Corinthians 5:17**), but to display this inward transformation on the

outside is not easy and it takes sincere and disciplined **effort** on our part. Why is it a struggle? The cares, troubles, and desires of our old sin nature (the devil) that is opposing us makes it hard (**Romans 7:18-20**) (**1 Peter 5:8**). On a daily basis, we must make our inner man (spiritual nature) stronger than our outward man (fleshly/carnal nature). How do we do this? We do this by renewing our minds (**Romans 12:2**). We need to learn to dump our junk (**2 Corinthians 10:3-6** -“take every thought captive”). We need to meditate on Christ (**Psalm 1:1-2**) (**Philippians 4:8**). We may think that we don't know how to meditate, but we really do. Whenever we worry, we are meditating on negative circumstances. Our positive attitude will determine our spiritual altitude. This is a **lifelong** process. Breaking an old cycle requires starting a new cycle. We will never be perfect on this side of heaven, but when we focus on Jesus, we are reminded that we are headed in the *direction of perfection*.

Pattern

(“which was also in Christ Jesus”)

Here we see the pattern we need to aim for. Christ has to become the role model for our lives (**Ephesians 5:1**). Being imitators of God is more than going to church on Sunday. First, we become Christians (believe Christ is the only way) and then spend the rest of our lives **imitating** His pattern. But, in order to act like Him we need to know Him. As Christians, sometimes we are educated (in the Word) far beyond our level of obedience. We can attend numerous Bible studies, highlight verses in the Bible, counsel others, and quote scripture, but that doesn't mean much if we don't **obey** Him. If what we believe in private is not displayed in public, then we are just putting on a show. Just as a sponge that is placed in water soaks up the water, as we spend time in the Word, meditate on it, we should soak up more of Christ and look more like the Master (master copy). Then, when we are squeezed (by our circumstances), Christ (not dirty water) will ooze out even in our adversity. We won't get rattled with situations in life and with people. Christ never let anything or anyone bother Him. If we are displaying selfishness, jealousy, or anger, we are not imitating Him. Why should we imitate Him? We should imitate Jesus because He is good and good to us (**Romans 5:8**). If we imitate Jesus, we can expect to be blessed (**Matthew 6:33**). Another reason to imitate Him is so that He might be **glorified** (**Isaiah 43:7**) (**1 Corinthians 10:31**). Christ blessed others through His life and in His death. Are we *only* looking to be blessed or to be a blessing to others? Remember, God works in us and through us. God's power comes in us (to do much for Him), but then He works through us in the lives of others. When people see us, do they see **Him**?