

Christ's Twin
Philippians 2:5-11
April 4, 2010

Intro: Bob and Mike are known as the best doubles American professional tennis players. Between 2005 and 2006, they set an Open Era record by competing in seven consecutive men's doubles Grand Slam finals, three of which they won. On February 20, 2010, they recorded their Open Era record 600th match win by defeating Taylor Dent and Ryan Harrison in the semi-finals of the Delray Beach ATP 250 tournament. They also have 60 double titles and 8 Grand slam titles. They are said to be the best ever double tennis team. What makes them so great? Bob and Mike Bryan are mirror twins!

I want to begin by stating categorically that Christ did not have a twin brother, in case you were misled by today's sermon title. There are so many people around who are conspiracy theory buffs that you can't be too careful. I can see the author of The Da Vinci Code weaving a complete novel out of the idea that Jesus secretly had a twin. So let me state categorically that Jesus did not have a twin. However, today's scripture from Philippians provokes an interesting question. If Christ had a twin what would he, or she, be like?

Paul writes in Philippians 2:1,2: if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion,² then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. We are to be united with Christ on in KJV "like-minded" with Christ, says Paul. What does that mean? Maybe, at least spiritually, it means we are to be Christ's twin. You know we are twin Jesus, when Paul says we are to have the same mind!

Now imagine that you are a twin of Christ reared 2,000 years apart, but having the same personal attributes. Isn't that basically what Paul is asking for when he tells us to be "like-minded" with Christ? The King James Version uses these words, "Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus." Wow! The same mind in us that was in Christ! Is that possible? Forget how presumptuous it sounds. This is the ideal that we should seek for, according to Paul to be a spiritual twin of Jesus. So, in practical terms, what does that mean? What kind of mind, or attitude, did Christ have?

Twin His Humility 2-5

²then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. ³Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. ⁴Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

What Paul is saying is that for Jesus humility lay not so much in his passivity or in his lack of assertiveness or in his subservience, but in his confident belief He was firmly held in the grip of God . If he let go, God was stronger to hold on. And that sense of strength, which came from the love of God In his own life, set him free from the need to cling to titles or positions or the best seat at the banquet. It set him free to notice others and not just himself. Set him free to lead. To lead not by domination but by service. And it is to this kind of humility that he calls you and me to twin.

The opposite of humility is pride-when pride is evident-we are no longer twinning Jesus-but serving self. Here is a few ways pride shows up. . .

The man who parks in the space for the handicapped at the shopping center because the laws and rules were made for other people to obey. To twin the humility of Jesus is to open the door for the aged or handicapped.

The person at the airport who pushes him or herself in front of you and eighty-nine others as you wait for your seat assignments and boarding passes, this is pride! The humility of Jesus allows you to wait patiently in line an extended time –even if it’s caused by another’s incompetence!

Pride is the inconsiderate driver who weaves in and out of traffic, jeopardizing his and everyone else’s lives along the way. Humility is doing the Elbert wave, while allowing someone to pass.

The teacher or professor who regularly and almost gleefully points out publicly your total incorrect answers and assassinates your character as well as describing what you did or did not do. A humble teacher points out to his students his own mistakes, as illustration that we all have much too learn. This list could go on and on and on-but the resurrection is alive and well when we trust in the Holy Spirit to twin the humility of Jesus!

Twin His Servant Attitude 6-8

Who, being in very nature [fn] God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature [fn] of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death- even death on a cross!

Notice Verse 8 says Made Himself of *no reputation* - No reputation means “*to empty*”. Jesus voluntarily laid aside some of His divine prerogatives when He came into this world.

(Omnipresence; Omnipotence; Omniscience; etc.) What this meant was Jesus was not everywhere, he had limits and he did not know everything while he was here on earth. Think how frustrated you and I are when we can not find the car keys-can you imagine losing divinity! But he did this as an act of service!

Took upon Him the *form of a servant* - *Form* - “*That which strikes the eye*”. For all appearances, Jesus would have passed for a slave. **Isa. 53:3. Being found in *fashion as a man* - *Fashion* - “*the habitus, as comprising everything in a person which strikes the senses, the figure, bearing, discourse, actions, manner of life etc.*”** Jesus was born as a man, He lived as a man, He suffered as a man and He died as a man. He was in every sense of the word a real, genuine, human man! He knew pain, poverty, sorrow, loneliness and rejection. He knew laughter, hope and friendship. He knew every aspect of human existence, yet He knew no sin. He voluntarily came into this world and knew no sin and yet willingly subjected Himself to human existence so that He might identify Himself with you and me.

We are told that Jesus, the God-man, willingly allowed Himself to be overtaken by death! The One called the “***Prince of Life***”, **Acts 3:15**, entered the jaws of death willingly for you and me! The One Who is “***the resurrection and the life***”, **John 11:25**, humbled Himself and allowed the cruel fingers of death to wrap themselves around Him, so that we might experience His life.

In His death, Jesus served up redemption for all those who will believe on Him by faith, **1 Pet. 1:18-19**. He also demonstrated the boundless love of God for sinners when He died on that cross, **Rom. 5:8**. When Jesus died on that cross, He opened the way to God for all who want to

be saved, **Eph. 2:11-22!**

Jesus didn't just become a man for His earthly life down here. Even after He died and rose again, He still bears the form of humanity. When Jesus became a man, He eternally limited Himself to a human form! In fact, in Heaven today, Jesus still bears the marks and the wounds of His sufferings at Calvary, according to **Rev. 5:6; John 20:24-28**. When we see Him over there, we will see Him as God, but also as the Man Who died for our sins on the cross and Who still bears the "**beauty marks**" of Serving the needs of others. Throughout eternity, the spotless bride of Christ will be reminded of the price that was paid for her redemption. I believe that eternity will ring loudly with the praises of Him Who became a man so that men might get to God!

To twin Jesus service means we accept the beauty marks of love as well. When we help others because we love Jesus we will be misunderstood and betrayed just like Jesus. These acts of love will surely leave their mark-just as the whip left it's mark on Jesus! To Twin Jesus Service to willingly allow yourself to be marked by Love. As you Twin the Service of Jesus, remember ***Nobody's Service has ever accomplished what Jesus did! Remember: Serving the needs of Others cost Jesus more than we can ever Pay!***

Twin His Victory 9-11

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, Because of the love He displayed and the price paid, both on earth and in eternity, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

We are told In this section that God has "**highly exalted**" Jesus. This phrase means to "**raise to the utmost of majesty**". Consider how **He Is Exalted In His Name** - We are told that He has been given "**a name that is above every name**". What name is it? **JESUS!** At the mention of that simple name:

Live's have been altered;

Fevered brows have cooled;

Blinded eyes have opened;

Deaf ears have unstopped;
Sin's shackles have fallen away;
Night has turned to day;
Defeat has been swallowed up in the jaws of victory;
Hope had replaced defeat;
Dead men have come to life;
Lost men have been found;
Devils have trembled;
Sinners have broken;
Saints have shouted;
Angels have bowed;

More has been done through the agency and power of that Name than of all the names of all other people combined. There really is just something about that Name!

The Name Jesus is the sweetest Name ever to fall upon human ears! That Name is a cause for celebration in Heaven. That Name strikes fear into the hearts of the inhabitants of Hell. That Name is what changed my life, opened my eyes and saved my soul!

There's Just Something About That Name! But what the Name is symbolic of is His Victory!

2nd He is a victorious Ruler. We are told that there is a day coming when every person will bow before Him and confess Him as Lord to the glory of God the Father. Think of it! One day, every lost sinner will bow before Him and give Him glory! One day, the devil himself will bow before Jesus and honor Him. One day, every demon of Hell will call Jesus Lord!

Through out history men have ridiculed Him, mocked Him and ignored Him. Today, His name is a byword and He is still mocked, ridiculed and ignored by a lost world. But, the day is coming when that Name, and t he Person it represents, will receive the glory and honor He is worthy of today! I say, "**Hallelujah!**" One day we who have chosen to trust in His Resurrection, will see the manifestation of his victory!

Now here is how we are to twin his Victory-We want the blessing now-without the burden of the Cross! To Twin Jesus is to first Go to the Cross and then leave it God the Father to bring the victory when it is time! We want to exact revenge on our persecutors now! Jesus prayed for

those who nailed Him to the Cross. To Twin Jesus victory is to leave our enemies in God's hands to pray for them and let God vindicate us! To twin Jesus in His victory is to mirror his action of going through the trial first and receiving the blessing in God the Fathers time! This Easter are we willing to twin Jesus, so the world may experience the truthful power of the Resurrection?

Conclusion: God declares Jesus to be "**Lord**"! The resurrection proves He is Lord! If He is Lord, then He is worthy to be loved, served, worshiped and obeyed. If He is Lord, then He is worthy of all our time, our talents and our treasure. If He is Lord, then He deserves first place in our hearts and in our lives. If He is Lord he deserves to be twinned!

He is Lord than He should be exalted, praised and loved. If He is Lord, then let Him be Lord of all, **Acts 10:36**, for is He is not Lord of all, then He is not Lord at all! (**Note:** Every now and then someone will say, "**Well, Jesus is my Savior, but I haven't made Him Lord of my life.**" Friend, you can't make Him Lord! He is already Lord. And, you can't have Him as Savior without also having Him as Lord. The Bible says, "**Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved and thy house.**", **Acts 16:31**. He is Lord whether you acknowledge it or not! But, how much better life is when we give Him the love, honor and adoration He deserves! Have you done that this Easter? The song of decision is the time to do this.