

The Humility of Christ Philippians 2:5-8

It is important to remember that this is a topic that we, as finite creatures, will never fully be able to grasp. The fullness of God is truly **unsearchable** (Psalm 145:3; Isaiah 40:25,28). But we as believers should strive to know what the Lord has allowed us to learn about Him (Ephesians 3:18-19).

In this text, Paul was not writing a doctrinal statement on Jesus, but imploring the church at Philippi to be humble, and He gives one of the deepest statements in all of Scripture on the essential nature of Jesus in order to do so.

The humility we are called to have is listed in vs. 3-5.

The perfect example of that humility: Jesus, is in vs. 6-8

Who is Jesus?

- Jesus Himself asked His disciples this question in Matt 16:15: “Who do you say that I am?” Every individual person must come to the knowledge of this themselves.

He is God:

Vs.6 “....*existing* in the *form* of God, did not count *equality with God* a thing to be grasped....”

- The word “existing” describes a continuation of something that always has been, still is, and always will be. Hebrews 13:8 “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.”
- “Form” is the Greek word *morphe*. “Morphe *always* signifies a form which truly and fully expresses the being which underlies it.” This is a form that is true to the essential nature of that being.
- “Equality with God” There is nothing in all of creation that is equal with God. In order to be equal with God, you need to possess His divine attributes: Eternal (no beginning or end), omniscient (knows all), omnipotent (all powerful), immutable (does not change), omnipresent (present in all places), and sovereign (in control of all things). There is no other God (Isaiah 43:10; 44:6; 45:5; 46:9). Jesus makes this same claim about Himself! (Revelation 22:12-13)
- **Scripture on the Deity of Christ:** (John 17:5; Colossians 1:15-19; Hebrews 1:3). He shows His omniscience (John 2:24-25) and His power and sovereignty (Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 4:39; Luke 22:51; John 11:43).

He emptied Himself:

This kind of mindset (to humble ourselves) is the opposite of what Satan has, and the opposite of what we naturally have also (Isaiah 14:12-14; Matthew 4).

- Jesus **cannot** empty Himself of His Deity. That is His very nature of being God. This is His *morphe*, which cannot change.
- This was a “definite act, once for all, and not simply a habit of living.” - Dr. McClain
- Jesus, in an act of total humility and selflessness, chose, voluntarily, to submit to the will of the Father and *set aside* the privileges He had in heaven, to *veil* the glory that He had the full right and ability to display, in order to accomplish the work set out before Him. He set aside the rights and glory He was completely entitled to. There wasn’t a millisecond of His time on this earth where He was not God. He did not empty Himself of His deity. This wasn’t a subtraction of His nature, but a subtraction of the exercising of the privileges of that nature. He gave up the independent use of His divine attributes. He never lost them. (Matthew 17; John 10:18; Acts 17:28)

Jesus is also Man:

- *Morphe* of a servant....*likeness* of man. Likeness here refers to that which is made to be like something else. Not just in appearance, but reality.

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- Two distinct natures: 100% God, 100% man. Both natures are perfectly united, without any loss of identity from either one. One personality.
- **Scripture on the Humanity of Christ:** Normal aging process (Luke 2:40), regular physical needs and grew tired (John 4:6; 19:28), had genuine human emotions (John 11:35; Matthew 26:38), had a physical body even after resurrection (John 20:27-28).
- He did NOT possess a sin nature (Hebrews 4:15).

Being found in Human form:

- This simply refers to Jesus' outward appearance. He didn't take on any spectacular form that would make someone want to worship Him (Isaiah 53:2).

Humbled Himself to the point of death on a Cross:

Two phases of Christ's humiliation:

1. Him emptying Himself and taking on a human nature (Kenosis).
2. Him humbling Himself to the point of death on a cross (Tapeinosis).

Jesus says in Matthew 20:28 "The Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many." Doctrine and theology are incredibly practical. This is the perfect example of the mindset we are called to have.

Announcements:

★**DONATIONS:** We are collecting donations for Vertical 196 during the month of August. They are in need of: Disposable Razors, Travel Size Shaving Cream, Travel Size Deodorant, Men's Boxer Briefs (Size Large), Women's Bikini Cut Underwear (Size 7 & 8), Men's and Women's Ankle Socks, Dry Dog and Cat Food, Coffee, Wendy's Gift Cards, Individually Wrapped Candy, Powdered Drink Mix, and Bleach.

★**PNEUMATOLOGY CLASS:** We will be offering a new class on Sundays, starting on August 14th. This class will be a study on the Holy Spirit and it will be EVERY Sunday from 4-5pm. If you are interested in participating in this class, there is a sign-up list on the back table!

★**MEMBERS MEETING:** We will be having a short Members Meeting THIS Sunday, August 7th, immediately following the worship service. If you are a church member, please plan on staying for that meeting!