"THE HIGHEST EXAMPLE OF HUMILITY"

Philippians 2:5-11
1-22-2025

INTRO: How low did Christ go when He humbled Himself?
"All of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility . . ."

YOU AND I NEED TO FOLLOW CHRIST'S EXAMPLE OF HUMBLE-MINDEDNESS

How? By making two features of Christ's humility part of your life.

I. ALTHOUGH HE WAS GOD, **HE EMPTIED HIMSELF (v. 6 - 7)**

A. CHRIST EMPTIED HIMSELF IN FULL AWARENESS OF HIS ATTRIBUTES (Deity) (v. 6 - 7a)

B. CHRIST EMPTIED HIMSELF OF THE INDEPENDENT DISPLAY OF HIS ATTRIBUTES (His Divine Attributes) (v. 7b-c)

1. By becoming a Servant (v. 7b)

2. By becoming a Man (v. 7c)

II. BECAUSE HE BECAME MAN, **HE WAS WILLING TO SUBMIT HIMSELF** (V. 8-11)

A. HIS SUBMISSIVENESS LED TO SACRIFICE (V. 8A)

B. HIS SUBMISSIVENESS LED TO HUMILIATION (V.8b)

C. HIS SUBMISSIVENESS LED TO EXALTATION (V. 9-11).

1. Christ's Reward (v. 9) "A name above all names"

2. Christ's Recognition (v. 10-11) "Every knee . . . every tongue"

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INTRO: The account of the cross of Christ is told in each of the four gospels; it is the theme of the epistles. But this passage uniquely unfolds the cross as seen through the eyes of Christ Himself, and allows us to enter into the mind of Christ.
Ex. If a friend does something which puzzles us, we might ask what is was that he "had in mind" in doing it. It is in this sense that Paul uses the word mind in verse 5. What was it that seemed important to Jesus? What principles did he cherish? What objectives? On what footing were his choices make? (Motyer, p.108)

V. 5 - God is saying "Think like Christ thought."

The Theme of this paragraph: Having exhorted believers to be humble in their relationships toward each other (v.3-4), God now gives the premier example of humility and commands us to **have the same HUMBLE ATTITUDE that Christ had!**

God is saying: "Continually think like Christ thought; Unceasingly have the same humble attitude that Christ had"

The development of this theme:

How low did Christ go when He humbled Himself?

1. ALTHOUGH HE WAS GOD, **HE EMPTIED HIMSELF**
   and became a humble Servant (v. 6 - 7)

2. BECAUSE HE BECAME MAN, **HE SUBMITTED HIMSELF**
   and died in humiliation on a Cross (v. 8-11)

Paul said to the Ephesian believers that he had been "serving the Lord with all humility of mind. . ."

Christ is the ultimate example of true humility.
2 Corinthians 8:9
For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

"All of you be subject one to another, and be <u>clothed with humility . . .</u>"

YOU AND I NEED TO FOLLOW CHRIST'S EXAMPLE OF HUMBLE-MINDEDNESS
(humble attitude)

How? By making two features of Christ's humility part of your life.

I. ALTHOUGH HE WAS GOD, **HE EMPTIED HIMSELF**
(v. 6 - 7)

A. CHRIST EMPTIED HIMSELF IN FULL AWARENESS OF HIS ATTRIBUTES (deity) (v. 6 - 7a)

The word "being" means "existing" and indicates Christ's prior existence before He took on human flesh. "Being" is in the present tense and points to his continual existence.

"Form" = To be of the same nature and substance of the noun - "God". Christ was of the same essence as the Father.
The way one interprets the word "form" in this verse must match the meaning of verse 7. "Form of God....Form of a servant"

Christ was pure spirit before He took on a body.

He was of the same nature and essence as the Father.

Christ did not consider equality with God something to be stolen. One does not need to steal that which he already has in the fullest measure.

Illus: People steal (rob) in NYC because they either 1) do not have, or 2) want more of what they have.

Christ was deity to the fullest measure and would not be robbing anything from God by His admitting that he was God very God.

Christ was not taking something that was not His already.

Contrast Christ's attitude with Lucifer's (Is. 14:12-15):

Lucifer said "I will:	/	Christ said "Thy will"
Lucifer was not satisfied	/	Jesus the Creator,
with being a creature-	/	willingly became a man
he wanted to be the creator!		

Christ's humility is a rebuke to Satan's pride.

NOTE; Satan grasped for something that was not his; it was infinitely beyond his reach. (he tempted Eve to do the same -- "Ye shall be as God" - Gen. 1:26)

In contrast, Christ was deity and yet He lowered himself to take on flesh and blood.

It's easy to surrender your all if you do not have much to give up. You may have talent, gifts, abilities, prestige, family background , wealth, etc. For you to humbly empty yourself of any pride, and to fully surrender your life to God's full control will not be easy. But if you will follow Christ's example, you will do it!

The One who made the
Earth, Sun, Moon
Mercury
Venus
Mars
Jupiter
Saturn
Uranus
Neptune
Pluto

The One who made the Milkyway Galaxy
With 100 billion stars populating the Milky Way galaxy
"We think there are actually more planets out there than stars," says one scientist

Andromeda Galaxy
Aquarius Galaxy
Centaurus Galaxy
Helix Galaxy
Virgo Galaxy

HUMBLED HIMSELF!!!!!

B. CHRIST EMPTIED HIMSELF OF THE INDEPENDENT DISPLAY OF HIS ATTRIBUTES (deity) (v. 7b-c)

Ill. Of a 12 yr. old Korean boy I met in PA who could type 150 plus words a minute. He was such a good typist that he was wanted by a Lawyer, yet he submitted this ability to the will of his father who did not want him to work yet.

"Made himself of no reputation" = Lit. "emptied himself," or the idea of - surrendered the independent **use** of his divine attributes.

NOTE: Christ did **not** give up even one of His divine attributes. If he would have, he would no longer be God. He gave up the independent use (or display) of them.

"Emptied" - Christ refused to use what he had (his deity) for his own advantage.`

When you show off what you have, how you look, what you can do, you are showing that you are absolutely proud.

Applic: This is the "mind of Christ," an attitude that says: "I cannot keep my privileges for myself; I must use them for others; and to do this, I will gladly surrender them to God's will and pay whatever price is necessary."

A test of your character is what you do with the privileges God gives you.

1) It's a privilege to have money in your pocket.
2) It's a privilege to have a Bible-preaching church.
3) It's a privilege to have freedom in USA.
4) It's a privilege to have health.

How are you handling these privileges?

Christ surrendered the independent display of His attributes

1. By becoming a <u>Servant</u> (v. 7b)

Lit. "bondslave" - a totally devoted servant who totally surrendered his own personal will, to do the will of his master. **see Mt.5:17-19,30**

Christ became a servant and a man and yet did <u>not</u> have His divine attributes taken away. He remained God though He became a man. "He was like a king who temporarily puts on the garments of a peasant while at the same time remaining king . . ." (Walvoord, p. 54).

Christ came to minister (Mt. 20:28). He did the task of a menial slave by washing the disciples' feet (Jn. 13).

A person with a humble attitude like Christ will <u>serve</u>.

Christ surrendered the independent display of His attributes

2. By becoming a <u>Man</u> (v. 7c)

"Was made" = He became. He <u>became</u> something He was not.

"Likeness of men" = but <u>not</u> identical with men. He did not have a sin nature.
Heb. 4:15 - ". . . Was in all points tempted like as we are, yet <u>without sin."</u>

Christ became a man, yet without a sin nature. "For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh."

Jesus was a true man, but not a sinful man (cp. Heb. 2:14).

Death was only possible for the Son of God if He became a <u>man.</u>

2 Corinthians 8:9

For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

THE GRACE OF CHRIST BROUGHT HIM <u>DOWN</u> TO THE <u>DEPTHS OF POVERTY</u> (v. 9a)

How low did Christ go?

"Our Lord Jesus Christ" - note full title:

1) "Lord" - He who is <u>master</u> (of the Universe) - the eternal Yahweh became poor!

2) "Jesus" - He who is <u>Savior</u> (the <u>only</u> deliverer from sin and hell) became poor!

3) "Christ" - He who is <u>Messiah</u> (the anointed King of kings) became poor!

"Though He was rich" –

--This points to His <u>pre-existence</u> (Jesus existed before incarnation)
--This points to His <u>pre-eminence</u> (He was ruler over all creation)

Before He came to earth, the Lord Jesus shared the same glory as the Father (Jn. 17:5).

Jesus humbled Himself so much as seen by:

1) His coming to earth
2) Taking on a physical body with all of its limitations

Christ had:

1) Humble <u>ancestors</u> (lineage)
--Tamar (incest with Judah)
--Rahab (a prostitute)
--Ruth (a Moabite)
Mt. 1:3, 5

2) Humble birth

--swaddling clothes (Lk. 2:7, 12)

Cp. how we are so interested in how we wrap gifts to beautify what is inside, with how God wrapped His gift to us!

"Swaddling clothes" = lit. strips of cloth - Christ was wrapped up like a mummy.

NOTE: This wrapping was part of a sign (v. 12) (a sign is something out of the ordinary).

God's gift was the best gift ever imaginable and yet it wasn't wrapped in special paper! In God`s infinite wisdom He planned that His Son would not be recognized man's way. (by a royal, wealthy family with imperial power and prestige) but that He would be revealed solely by the Holy Spirit (as the Child was to Simeon).

--Manger - a feeding trough for animals in a stall or stable (possibly a cave or an underground barn).

--Bethlehem (Micah 5:2 - "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.")

3) a humble family (Lk. 2:24)

Mary and Joseph could only afford to give two turtledoves or two young pigeons, rather than a lamb (READ Lev. 12:6 - cp. with 5:7).

4) a humble trade (Mk. 6:3 - "Carpenter . . . they were offended at Him" (Mt. 11:6 - "And blessed is He, whosoever shall not be offended in me.")

5) a humble upbringing - "Nazareth in Galilee" Nathaniel said: "Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth?" (Jn. 1:46) (Town was very small and had a negative reputation) Jn. 7:52 - "They answered and said unto him, Art thou also of Galilee? Search, and look: for out of Galilee ariseth no prophet."

6) a humble ministry
--He had no pillow to lay His head (Mt. 8:20)
--He had no money to pay His taxes (Mt. 17:24-27)

Christ's life shows that He plunged into the depths of poverty. At birth, he slept in another's manger; in ministry, He cruised in another's boat; in ministry, He ate in another's house; at triumphal entry, He rode on another's donkey; at death, he was buried in another's tomb (Mt. 27:57-60).

7) a humble death (Phil. 2:8)
crucified = a curse (Gal. 3:13)
Stripped of clothes, thorns, etc.

The hymnwriter wrote:
"There's not a friend like the lowly Jesus--
No, not one! No, not one!
None would could heal all our soul's diseases--
No, not one! No, not one!

No friend like Him is so high and holy--
No, not one! No, not one!
And yet no friend is so meek and lowly--
No, not one! No, not one!

Jesus knows all about our struggles,
He will guide till the day is done"
(Hymn # 208)

Humility of Christ - Isaiah 53:2-3 - "For He shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall se him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not."

As a lowly servant, Christ washed the disciples feet (Jn. 13:13ff). He preached salvation to the lowest of the low. He traveled with common fishermen and a tax collector.

Jesus "came not to be ministered unto, but to minister . . ." (Mt. 20:28)

The Lord of the universe ut up with poverty, persecution, scorn, abandonment, and the cruelties of the cross.

Why?

So that we might be rich.

He "spent" all He had - to purchase our redemption.

II. BECAUSE HE BECAME MAN, **HE WAS WILLING TO SUBMIT HIMSELF** (V. 8-11)

"Fashion" - outward appearance. The word was used of a king who exchanges his kingly robe for sackcloth.

A. HIS SUBMISSIVENESS LED TO SACRIFICE (V. 8A)

V. 8 - "Obedient unto death" - Many people are willing to serve others if it does not cost them anything. But if there is a price to pay, they suddenly lose interest.

Ill. of buying something in the store. It looks great until you see how much it costs.

Sacrifice: "Ministry that costs nothing accomplishes nothing."
"If there is to be any blessing, there must be some bleeding."

Illus: At a religious festival in Brazil, a missionary was going from booth to booth, examining the wares. He saw a sign above one booth: "Cheap crosses." He thought to himself, "That's what many Christians are looking for these days - cheap crosses. Our Lord's cross was not cheap; why should mine be?"

"Yea, even the death of a cross" = Death was humiliating enough; the cross (with its suffering and stigma) was even more humiliating.`

B. HIS SUBMISSIVENESS LED TO HUMILIATION (V.8b)

Dying on a cross was the climax (height) of shame. Christ was accursed! Gal. 3:13

Crucifixion was the lowest form of death. It was reserved by the Romans for common criminals and slaves.
If Christ was not God (as cultists say), then this passage would make no sense. And His humiliating would have no impact.`

What humiliation!

Christ went from - Heaven to earth
glory to shame
Master to servant
Maker to man
life to death
riches to rags

Christ certainly did not merely look out for His own personal interest, but also for the interests of others (cp. v. 4)

C. HIS SUBMISSIVENESS LED TO <u>EXALTATION</u> (V. 9-11).

A paradox of the Christian life: the more we give, the more we receive; the more we sacrifice, the more God blesses.

--this is why a person who is humbly submitted can have joy.

--this is why the Father exalted His Son so high! -- Because the Son <u>gave so much</u>!

Jesus in commending the man who took the lower seat and condemning the man who took the higher seat in the synagogue, said: "For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased, and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted." (Luke 14:11) He said the same thing about the publican and pharisee (Luke 18:14).

James 4:10 - "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and <u>He shall lift you up."</u>

"Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may <u>exalt you in due time</u>."

Prov. 15:33 - "Before honor is humility."

Christ in his submissiveness <u>did not exalt Himself</u>. He patiently allowed his Father to lift him up.

"Highly exalted" = lifted Him up above and beyond everything else.

Cp. Jn. 17:1-5 **V. 5 - "Glorify Me with . . . the glory which I had with Thee before the world was."

"Highly exalted" = exalted beyond - a reference to Christ's resurrection and ascension.

Christ's exaltation began at His resurrection (cp. Acts 2:32-36).

Illus: Joseph suffered and served for 13 years, but then God exalted him and made him the second ruler of Egypt.

David was anointed king when but a youth. He experienced years of hardship and suffering, but at the right time, God exalted him as king of Israel.

Psalm 75:6-7 - "For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. But God is judge: He putteth down one, and setteth up another."

1. Christ's Reward (v. 9): "A name above all names"

"A name above every name" = possibly the name Jesus (v. 10), or Lord (v. 11) - which is the O.T. Yahweh (Jehovah)! Cp. Eph. 1:21; Rev. 19:11-16.

2. Christ's Recognition (v. 10-11)

"Every knee . . . every tongue" - see Is. 45:22-24

a. Worship - "every knee should bow"

"In heaven" - angelic beings
"In earth" - living men
"Those under the earth" - those who have died

ALL will bow - To bow before Him now means salvation; to bow before Him at the judgment means condemnation.

b. Praise - "Every tongue confess"

When Christ judges the world, all (saved and lost) alike will recognize His lordship.

Conclusion: Christ's Humility is seen in the fact that He did what He did with the motive of Glorifying His Father.

"Glory of God the Father" - a person with a submissive mind will be pleased that God is glorified in the end.

As Jesus faced the cross, the glory of the Father was uppermost in His mind. "Father, the hour is come; glorify Thy Son, that Thy Son may glorify Thee." (Jn. 17:1)

Do you have the mind of Christ?

Are you following His example of humble-mindedness?

To honestly answer ask yourself:

1) Am I willing to surrender myself?
2) Am I willing to submit myself? No Matter what the cost?