

Philippians 2:5-11

The Humility of Christ as Our Example

In light of the importance of living a life of humility (vv. 1-4), Paul shows us what we can learn from the greatest example of humility, seen in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

> What do we see in these verses that describe Jesus as being both God and man? He had the "form (nature) of God"; was "equal with God" (though surrendered use of divine power at times); took the "form (nature) of a servant"; born "in the likeness of man."

> Verse 7 says Jesus was in the "likeness" of man. This shows that Jesus took on humanity, yet it was somewhat different than ours. In what sense was His humanity different? Jesus was human, but He did not have a sin nature - He was sinless.

> What was the purpose of Jesus becoming a man? To die, "even the death of the cross" (note Mark 10:45).

> If we are to be like Jesus (v. 5), what does this say about the attitude of humility we should have? We should have the same kind of servant's heart Christ had - willing to be obedient to the Father at all costs, and not worried about our own comfort.

Application

Verses 9-11 reveal how Christ's humility and death have now turned into His exaltation and being given a "name above all names." When struggling with pride, consider the following:

- What does Christ's humility say about the level of humility we should have?
- What does Christ's humility say about the level of glory we should attribute to Him?

Seeing Christ in His majesty brings about a correct perspective of who we are, as well as a greater desire to direct all of our praise toward Him! May we be characterized by humility!

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