

# Philippians

A GUIDE TO JOY

## Philippians 2:5-11 – Humility Leads To Honor

June 14, 2020

Humility is considering others more significant than ourselves. Humility is looking out not just for our interests but for the interests of others.

*Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,...*  
Philippians 2:5 (ESV)

### 1. The Descent of Jesus — The humility of Jesus led Him to come down and die for us.

*...who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,...* Philippians 2:6 (ESV)

The Bible claims Jesus is God.

The Greek word for “form” is the word *morphe*.

- **Morphe** means something appear to be what it is and its appearance represents its true identity.
- **Schema** means something appears to be something but its appearance DOESN'T represent its true identity. Schema means something is wearing a mask.

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.* John 1:1 (ESV)

*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.* John 1:14 (ESV)

Jesus creates things, which is something only God can do.

*All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.* John 1:3 (ESV)

*For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.* Colossians 1:16 (ESV)

**A. Step 1 — Jesus humbled Himself by not insisting He hold onto his rights as the creator.**

*...he did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped. Philippians 2:6 (ESV)*

**B. Step 2 — Jesus humbled Himself by emptying Himself to become a man.**

*But he emptied himself... Philippians 2:7 (ESV)*

Jesus emptying himself means that Jesus voluntarily chose to limit the free exercise of his divine attributes so He could fully identify with us in every way. Jesus didn't lose His divine attribute when He became a man. Emptying Himself meant Jesus chose not to use His divine attributes when He became a man.

**When Jesus emptied Himself, what attributes did He set aside?**

**1. Jesus temporarily gave up His heavenly glory.**

*I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed. John 17:4-5 (ESV)*

**2. Jesus gave up the independent use of His authority**

*Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. Hebrews 5:8 (ESV)*

**3. Jesus chose to limit His divine knowledge.**

*But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. Matthew 24:36 (ESV)*

**4. Jesus set aside His eternal riches.**

*For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich. 2 Corinthians 8:9 (ESV)*

**4. Jesus gave up his favorable relationship with God the Father.**

*For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5:21 (ESV)*

**C. Step 3 — Jesus humbled Himself by becoming a slave to serve us.**

*By taking the form of a servant... Philippians 2:7 (ESV)*

*...But I am among you as the one who serves. Luke 22:27 (ESV)*

## **D. Step 4 — Jesus humbled Himself by identifying with our humanity in every way.**

*Being born in the likeness of men... Philippians 2:7 (ESV)*

*Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. Hebrews 2:17 (ESV)*

*For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Hebrews 4:15 (ESV)*

## **E. Step 5 — Jesus humbled Himself to the point of death, even death on a cross.**

*And being found in human form he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death,... Philippians 2:8 (ESV)*

### **Applications**

- Unity in the church comes when we give up our rights and pride to humbly serve others in the church with great humility, like Jesus humbly served us.
- Unity in marriage comes when we give up all of our rights to humbly serve our spouse, like Jesus gave up His rights to humbly love and serve us.
- Unity in culture comes when we give up our rights to stoop low in order to love and serve others, like Jesus went low to love and serve us. Just like Jesus, we should expect to be hated and misunderstood when we do this.

## **2. The Exaltation of Jesus — God the Father greatly rewarded Jesus because of the great humility of Jesus.**

The greater the humility of God's people, the greater the reward from God for God's people.

*Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, Philippians 2:9 (ESV)*

### **A. God rewarded Jesus' humility by giving Him the highest position in the universe.**

*...God has highly exalted him... Philippians 2:9 (ESV)*

*...that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power*

and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church,... Ephesians 1:20–22 (ESV)

**B. God rewarded Jesus' humility by giving Him the highest name in the universe.**

*Bestowed on him the name that is above every name... Philippians 2:9 (ESV)*

*...and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:11 (ESV)*

**C. God rewarded Jesus' humility by making Him the one everyone and everything will worship in the universe.**

*...so 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. Philippians 2:10–11 (ESV)*

**THE SAME GOD WHO EXALTED THE HUMBLE CHRIST WILL ALSO EXALT THE HUMBLE CHRISTIAN.**

Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you. James 4:10 (ESV)

### 3. Conclusion

**A. The only way to unity is through humility.**

**B. The only way to be richly rewarded by God is through humility.**

#### Life Group Questions

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1. What stuck out to you in the message? What is one thing you will apply?
2. Read Philippians 2:5-11. Why is it important for us to know Jesus' humility began with being fully God?
3. When Paul said Jesus emptied Himself, why can that NOT mean Jesus left some of His divinity behind when he became a man? Why is that important?
4. How does the amount of humility displayed by Jesus to save us, challenge us to swallow our pride and pursue more humility around people, especially in the church? What is the relationship between humility and forgiveness? What is the relationship between humility and unity?
5. God the Father gave Jesus the greatest position of honor in the universe because He displayed the greatest act of humility in the universe. What additional insights do these verses give us about the relationship between humility and honor? Proverbs 15:33, 18:12, 22:4, 1 Peter 5:6.