

The Humility of the Incarnation

Text: Phil. 2:6-8

Date: 12-20-20 @ 10:00 am

I. Humbly Supreme (Phil. 2:6).

The word **form** refers to the “distinctive nature and character of the being to whom it pertains, and is thus permanently identified with that nature and character. . . As applied to God, the word is intended to describe that mode in which the essential being of God expresses itself. . . It is the perfect expression of a perfect essence (Vincent)”.¹

“Jesus is of the very essence and being and image of God. He is the divine, unchangeable God Himself. He dwells in the very perfection and essence of God; He possesses the very attributes of God Himself” (Practical Word Studies in the N.T. 845).

Thought it not robbery to be equal with God: He “did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped or held onto” or “something to be exploited to his advantage”.

Christ was about others. He did not come to this earth for Himself; rather He came to this earth for His Father (propitiation) and for us.

If we choose to be about our self instead of others, we tarnish the reputation of the very Person we say that we follow.

II. Human Servant (Phil. 2:7).

Of no reputation: *to empty oneself; to be completely empty.*

- He did not empty His deity.
- He did lay aside the glory, majesty, honor and worship which were rightfully ascribed to Him as God.
- He had certain limitations or veiling of His deity in the sense that He took upon Himself humanity.

If anyone ever had the right to insist on his rights, it was the Lord Jesus. But his concern for others (those whom the Father had given him) was such that he refused to insist on his rights.

Form of a servant: The essence and nature of a servant, which is the Greek word for *bondslave*. Prior, His essence was Deity and only Deity. Now, his *form (outward expression of His nature)* would be a servant (Matt. 20:28). His outward expression on earth was that of a slave, all manifested through humility.

¹ Wuest, K. S. (1997). *Wuest's word studies from the Greek New Testament: for the English reader* (Php 2:6). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.

By taking the very nature of human flesh, He was fully God and fully human at the same time.

Jesus Christ stooped to the level of man so that man could again have a relationship with God.

CONCLUSION

1. **The greatest act of humility is pictured in the Person of Jesus Christ.** What Christ did for us makes all of our acts of humility pale in comparison, yet Christ desires us to **live humbly with a servant's heart!**
2. **We must follow the example of humility that was displayed by our Savior. Be a servant.**
3. **Be grateful for Christ's incarnation!**

**1. Down from His glory, Ever living story,
My God and Savior came, And Jesus was His name.
Born in a manger, To His own a stranger,
A man of sorrows, tears and agony.**

**Chorus: O how I love Him! How I adore Him!
My breath, my sunshine, my all in all.
The great Creator became my Savior,
And all God's fullness dwelleth in Him.**