

“Perfect Kenosis” (Phil. 2:5-8)

(Philippians—Choose Joy! – Lesson #12)

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Introduction

1. There are times it is very difficult to be humble.
2. Tonight’s text gives Paul’s concluding reason and example for Christians to be humble.
3. Phil. 2:5-11 was likely an early Christian _____ that Paul used.

I. The Example of Christ (v. 5)

1. Jesus was the _____ example of everything, including humility.
 - Here we see His exemplary attitude (v. 6) and actions (vv. 7-8).

II. The Deity of Christ (v. 6)

1. Prior to His incarnation (“becoming flesh”), He was “in the form” (_____) of God.
 - A. It was an outward appearance consistent with _____.
 - B. Jesus has _____ existed as the second person of the Holy Trinity (John 1:1-2).
2. “A thing to be grasped” means to keep holding onto.
 - Jesus let go in order to take on His humanity.

III. The Humility of Christ (vv. 7-8)

1. He “_____” (*ekenōsen*, verbal form of *kenosis*) Himself (v. 7).
 - A. But He did not stop being divine.
 - He added humanity to His divinity.
 - B. He set aside the _____ of being God.
 1. He left behind His position, power, etc.
 2. He did miracles by the power of God the Father.
 - C. He took on the _____ (*morphēn*) of His creation.
 - D. He emptied/lowered Himself in four ways.
2. He lowered Himself to become a human.
 - A. The Creator became the created (Col. 1:15-18).
 - He was _____ God; fully human.
 - B. This surprised the Jews. They thought the Messiah would be _____ a human.
 - C. In temptations, it was His _____ side that was tempted.
3. He lowered Himself to become a bond _____.
 - A. This role surprised the Jews. They thought the Messiah would be a _____ king.
 - B. Instead, He was a servant to others.

C. Consider the magnanimity of Jesus serving others.

4. He lowered Himself to _____ on the cross.

A. This unusual act surprised the Jews.

1. They expected the Messiah to set up an _____ kingdom.

2. Instead, Jesus atoned for our sins, set up a _____ kingdom, and will return to set up an earthly kingdom.

B. This was an excruciating death and a cursed way to die (Deut. 21:22-23; Gal. 3:13).

IV. Application

1. Seek the _____ of Christ.

2. _____ in humility.

3. Deflect all _____ to God.

Next Week (Aug. 12) – “The Exaltation of Christ” (Phil. 2:9-11)