

THE HUMBLER & EXALTED CHRIST

Christ is the humbled and exalted King of Glory, both in heaven and in the earth. He is the Son of God and the Son of Man. The work of Christ was so impossible to accomplish in His obedience to His Heavenly Father that this is the point of the hope of the Good News of God's Kingdom. Creation could not and cannot accomplish their own salvation and restoration and groans under the agony and penalty of sin. All of creation groans under the weight of this burden and brokenness. As we celebrate the resurrection of Christ today, we remember that the death of the perfect sacrifice was required before the hope of resurrection and restoration could be received. Let's examine the full surrender of Christ to the Father's will which now offers "the way, truth, and life" leading us to God our Father.

Philippians 2:5-11 *Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, ⁷ but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. ⁹ Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, ¹¹ and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

I. THE MIND OF CHRIST

- A. **Philippians 2:5-6** *Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, being (unchanging essence) in the form (nature) of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,*
- B. **Philippians 2:5-6** *'You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to.' (NLT)*
- C. First thing that we need to draw from in this letter from Paul to the Church of Jesus in Philippi is their need for a spirit of unity in the face of hardship and persecution.
 - **Phil. 1:27-30** *'Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel, and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God. For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, having the same conflict which you saw in me and now hear is in me.'*
- D. **Mind** (Gr. *Phroneō*)- 'to have understanding; to feel, to think; mindset; boundary lines of thought'
- E. **1 Corinthians 2:16** *'For "who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?" But we have the mind of Christ.'*
- F. This focus of Paul on the mind of Christ helps us to know where to set our attention and affection. Paul is about to define the 'Why' behind the 'What' for Christ's actions and intentions. When we begin to draw from the well of the knowledge and affections of the eternal God, we will be left speechless and in awe of Christ. Oh, to be like Christ in every way!
- G. Christ Jesus never stopped being God. He cannot nor will not ever stop being God. This is who He is in eternity and for eternity. When Christ willingly took on the form of humanity, He willingly and humbly laid aside His eternal powers and privileges in order to access all that was in the Father from the position of humanity's suffering servant to all. Only Christ could have done this.

- H. **Revelation 5:1-4** *'And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals. Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?" And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it. So I wept much (bitterly), because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it.'*
- I. This is the cry of all of humanity for justice and creation's groan for restoration. Only Christ can remedy this ache. Have you surrendered to this God-Man Christ your Messiah and Savior?

II. CHRIST EMPTIED HIMSELF

- A. **Philippians 2:7** *'...but made Himself of no reputation...'*
- B. The original language is understood as Christ "emptying Himself" in order to take of human flesh. Christ never stopped being God. He only set aside His divine rights & privileges in order to become His creation (omniscience, omnipresence, omnipotence, etc.).
- Christ now knows what it means to feel pain.
 - Christ now knows what it means to need a mother & father.
 - Christ now knows what it means to learn.
 - Christ now knows what it feels like to see and experience prejudice and injustice.
 - Christ now knows what it means to die.
 - Christ now knows what it is like to be reunited to His Eternal Heavenly Father after being separated in the cross.

III. CHRIST BECAME A SERVANT

- A. **Philippians 2:7** *'...taking the form of a bondservant...'*
- B. Christ truly came to serve, rather than to be served. He has always had this nature and heart, but in human form, He came to show and demonstrate it to us.
- C. **Matthew 20:28** *just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."*
- D. The investment of Christ is inexhaustible when we think about what He gave away in order to gain through His willing sacrifice. How much do you mean to Him that He would set all of eternity aside to pursue you and convince you of His eternal love and joy for you. He really loves you!
- E. **John 13:3-5** *Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, ⁴ rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. ⁵ After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.*
- F. **Bondservant-** *'devoted to another to the disregard of one's own interests'*
- G. Christ did not come as a human king or a wealthy, influential, powerful, successful human as in the eyes of men, but He came in utter weakness and surrender to the Father's desires and the needs of all humanity. Christ came to demonstrate that the Servant is the truly the most powerful individual as they are submitted to another rather than their own will. This is true meekness.

IV. CHRIST BECAME HUMAN

- A. **Philippians 2:7** *'...and coming in the likeness of men...'*

- B. The Creator became His own Creation! Wow!! Maybe this imagery works: The architect of a beautiful home became a home, himself. A farmer became a plant. The analogy falls short, of course.
- C. Christ took on all of humanity's "likeness" except its sinful nature. He became a baby, child, teenager, adult, experienced hunger, joy, pain, and all the human experience. He even experienced fear, the temptation of the short-cut to success, and the offer for the praise of mankind, yet He conquered and overcame these temptations in order to obey His Father and show all of Creation what is possible in the grace of God.

V. CHRIST BECAME VULNERABLE

- A. **Philippians 2:8** *"And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself..."*
- B. This is one of the greatest theological stumbling blocks for many today, as it was for the first century Jewish mindset. How can God become vulnerable?
- C. **Matthew 5:5** *Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.*
- D. Jesus loved so well, including in the cases of His close friends like Lazarus, Martha, Mary, His Mother and family, and all of His Disciples He prays for in **John 17** with deep desire and passion to the point His body begins to break down and sweat blood through His pores.
- E. When we receive love and give love, it makes our hearts vulnerable to hurt, pain, misunderstanding, etc.

VI. CHRIST HUMBLING HIMSELF

- A. **Philippians 2:8** *'And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself...'*
- B. **Matthew 11:29** *"Take my yoke (my partnership) upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light."*

VII. CHRIST REMAINED OBEDIENT TO HIS FATHER

- A. **Philippians 2:8** *'And being found in appearance as a man...obedient to the point of death...'*
- B. Christ was fully submitted to His Father as they had discussed and planned their path for perfected fellowship in the eternal Godhead and their plan to create and share their eternal fellowship with a family for eternity. True love is defined by what it gives away. There was never any doubt to the Father's plans and motives, therefore Christ was able to be fully surrendered to His heart and plan.

VIII. CHRIST DIED A CRIMINAL'S DEATH

- A. **Philippians 2:8** *And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself...even the death of the cross.*
- B. READ the John 19 Commentary from David Guzik.
- C. **Revelation 5:5-6** *'But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals." And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth.'*
- D. **All eyes on Jesus! Behold the Lamb! See Him! He is our Savior and soon coming King!**