



Humiliation That Leads to Greatness
Philippians 2:5-11
August 25, 2019

A lesson to learn:

As we go through the highs and lows of life, our attitude concerning life is of more importance than our actions. Why? Because our attitude is the foundation upon which our actions are built.

Proverbs 15:33 (NKJV) The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom, and before honor is humility.

1 Peter 5:6 (NKJV) Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time.

I. The Standard for Christian Unity – Jesus

David Jeremiah:

“We are given this glimpse of His perspective so that we might see the price that must be paid for unity—nothing less than death. It is a willingness to turn totally away from our own prerogatives in order that we might focus on the needs of others.”

Six steps from glory to glory:

1. Jesus renounced His place with God.

Philippians 2:6 (NKJV) Who, being in the form of God...

The Mormon church believes that Jesus was a product of a sexual union between the resurrected Adam God and the Virgin Mary.

Jehovah's Witnesses deny the deity of Christ; they deny that Jesus is God made flesh, they also deny that He is a God to be worshipped, and they deny that it was God who shed His own blood on the cross for sinners.

The New World Translation - Jehovah's Witnesses teach that Jesus Christ is a created being and not *God the Son* for all eternity. They teach that Christ is not God, but "a god."

Comparison of the New King James Version and the Watchtower Society's New World Translation.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." (John 1:1, NKJV)

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was a god." (John 1:1, NWT)

Takeaway:

The Greek word *theos* without a preceding article cannot be translated "a god," and the correct literal rendering of the text is; "God was the Word" - emphasizing the deity of Christ.

2. Jesus rejected His own prerogatives.

Philippians 2:6 (NKJV) Who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God.

Takeaway:

Jesus surrendered that which He loved (His body) that He might serve those whom He loved (His church).

Robert Gromacki:

“When Christ did not esteem His equality with God as a prized possession, He did not look ‘on his own things’ (2:4). Instead, He viewed ‘the things of others,’ namely, the sinful plight of the human race. He did not contemplate what He would gain for Himself, but rather what He could do for others.”

Takeaway:

The point for all of us should be obvious; If Jesus could waive His rights and humble Himself, then so should we be willing to do the same.

3. Jesus renounced His privileges as God.

Philippians 2:7 (NKJV) But made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.

4. Jesus restricted His presence with God.

Philippians 2:7 (NKJV) But made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.

Hebrews 5:8 (NKJV) Though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.

Jesus affirmed His slave status many times:

Matthew 20:26-28 (NKJV) Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. ²⁷And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave-- ²⁸Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.

Theologian Scott Horrell:

“The kenosis (or emptying) of Christ, refers to the Son of God’s voluntary humiliation involved in adding a fully human (and therefore finite) nature to His divine, infinite nature and submitting to the suffering and death inherent in that act. This ultimate humility is figuratively called His ‘self-emptying.’ We mere mortals are to follow suit and empty ourselves for others.”

5. Jesus realized His purpose in coming to Earth.

Philippians 2:8 (NKJV) 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.

Hebrews 2:9 (NKJV) But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.

6. Jesus received His promotion.

Philippians 2:9-11 (NKJV) Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, ¹¹And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.