

Paul's References to the Divinity and Humanity of Jesus Christ, Pt. 1
Philippians 2:5-11, 2024-05-26A, #3

Introduction: Today I want to continue to talk to you about the divinity and humanity of Jesus Christ. We have examined John's reference in John 1:1-3, 14. In our last study, we looked at Isaiah's reference in Isaiah 9:6. Today we will begin to examine some of the references of Paul. We will start with Philippians 2:5-11.

I. Paul's Reference to the Divinity of Jesus Christ (Philippians 2:5-7).

A. "Who being in the form of God" (Philippians 2:6).

1. "Being" translates the present, active Greek verb *ὑπάρχω* (*huparchō*, Strong's 5225), which is in the present tense and in the active voice, and which means "to exist, existed, existing."
2. "Form" translates the Greek noun *μορφή* (*morphē*, Strong's 3444), which means "nature" or "essence" or "character."
3. "Robbery" translated the Greek noun *ἀρπαγμός* (*harpagmos*, Strong's 725), which means "something taken by force, the holding on to something by force."
4. "Equal with God" "Equal" translated the Greek adjective *ἴσος* (*isos*, Strong's 2470) which means "the same as, having the same value, quality, quantity" (cf. John 5:18; 10:33)...

B. "But made himself of no reputation," KJV or "But He emptied Himself," NASB (Philippians 2:7).

1. "Made of no reputation" translates one Greek verb *ekenōsen* (*ἐκένωσεν*). The basic verb is *κενῶω* (*kenoō*, Strong's 2758), which means "to empty." The verb is in the aorist tense and in the active voice...
2. The things of which Jesus emptied Himself:
 - a. Jesus emptied Himself of the full manifestation of His glory (John 17:1-5; cf. John 1:14; 2:11; 11:4, 40; Matthew 17:1-2; Mark 9:2-3; Exodus 14:4; 33:18-23; 34:5-8; Psalm 19:1-3).
 - b. Jesus emptied Himself His riches in heaven (2 Corinthians 8:9; cf. Matthew 8:20; Ephesians 1:3; 2:4, 7).
 - 1) Jesus was born in a borrowed stable (Luke 2:7).
 - 2) Jesus preached from a borrowed boat (Luke 5:1-3).
 - 3) Jesus fed the multitude with a borrowed lunch (John 6:5-13).
 - 4) Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a borrowed donkey (Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-10).
 - 5) Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper in a borrowed Upper Room (Luke 22:7-20).
 - 6) Jesus was buried in a borrowed tomb (Isaiah 53:9; Matthew 27:57-60).
 - c. Jesus emptied Himself of the independent use of His divine attributes (John 3:16-17; 4:34; 5:17, 30; 6:38; 8:29; 12:49; 15:10; Luke 2:49).
 - 1) Jesus did not give up His divine attributes.
 - 2) Jesus did things that only God can do: The feeding of the multitude; the stilling of the storm; the turning of water to wine...
 - d. The kenotic heresy or kenosis theology teaches that Jesus empty Himself of His divine attributes.

II. Paul's Reference to the Humanity of Jesus (Philippians 2:7-11).

A. "Took up on Him the form of a servant" (Philippians 2:7).

1. "Form" translates the Greek noun μορφή (*morphē*, Strong's 3444)...which means "nature" or "essence" or "character."
2. "Servant" translates the Greek noun δοῦλος (*doulos*, Strong's 1401), which means a slave, one who is the complete property of another.

B. "Was made in the likeness of men" (Philippians 2:7).

1. "Was made" translates the Greek verb γίνομαι (*ginomai*, Strong's 1401), which means "to come to exist, to exist." The verb is in the aorist tense and in the middle voice.
2. "Likeness" translates the Greek noun, ὁμοίωμα (*homoiōma*, Strong's 3667) which means "that which is made like something, similarity, appearance."
3. "Men" translates the Greek noun ἄνθρωπος (*anthrōpos*, Strong's 444), which means "human being, mankind, person."
4. Jesus was made in the likeness of humans except for sin (2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:15).

C. "Being found in fashion as a man" (Philippians 2:8a).

1. "Fashion" translates the Greek σχῆμα (*schema*, Strong's 4976), which means "the outward appearance of something or someone, the visual appearance."
2. "Man" translates the Greek noun ἄνθρωπος (*anthrōpos*, Strong's 444).

D. "He humbled himself" (Philippians 2:8b).

1. "Humbled" translates the Greek verb ταπεινῶ (*tapeinoō*, Strong's 5013), which means "to make low."
2. No one humble Jesus. *Tapeinoō* is in the aorist tense and in the active voice...
3. Jesus is the best example in the Bible of humility.
4. We are commanded to humble ourselves (James 4:10)...
 - a. God will humble those who do not humble themselves (Matthew 23:12; Luke 14:11; 18:14).
 - b. Let us pray for grace to humble ourselves...

E. "Became obedient unto death" (Philippians 2:8c).

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And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death: death on a cross.

III. The Blessings or Benefits Humility (Philippians 2:9-11):

- A. We are like Jesus Christ when we humble ourselves (Philippians 2:5-8).
- B. God exalts the humble (Philippians 2:9-11; cf. Matthew 23:12; James 4:10).
- C. Humility contributes to spiritual unity in the church of Jesus Christ (Philippians 2:2; cf. John 17:11, 21).
- D. God gives grace to the humble (James 4:6; cf. Romans 8:31; 1 Kings 21:29; 2 Kings 22:19-20; 2 Chronicles 7:14; 12:6-7; Jonah 3:5-10).
- E. God dwells with the humble (Isaiah 57:15).
- F. The humble shall be great in the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 18:3-4).
- G. Satan's three main weapons against us are pride, sex, and greed or money.
Humility takes away Satan's weapon of pride.

Pastor-Teacher Julius R. Malone