

# The Attitude of Christ

Phil 2:5-11

Nov 22, 2020

Phil 2:5-11 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. 8 Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

## Introduction: Jesus Christ – our example

Paul is pleading with the Philippians to live in harmony, to lay aside their disagreements, their personal ambitions and pride, their desire for prominence and prestige. To have in their hearts a humble, selfless desire to serve, which was the essence of the life of Christ.

This section is about the humility of Jesus Christ. We have the mind of Christ (1Cor 2:16). This mind is one of humility that seeks to meet the needs of others. It is the solution to solving church problems and disunity.

Humility is the first step to solving problems between individuals and nations. For humility seeks to meet the needs of those who are hurting and needy. Consider the problems of hate, abuse, selfishness, greed hoarding, stealing, poverty, hunger and homelessness could be reduced if we approached these issues with the attitude of Christ, that of humility. How much better place the world would be.

**Have this attitude** in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus (v. 5).

**Attitude** = thoughtful planning, way of thinking, outlook; to think, have a mindset, be minded. The activity represented by this word involves the will, affections, and conscience.

## Jesus Christ is of the very nature of God (Phil 2:6)

**Jesus is Deity;** This means:

He is not like God he is God.

He did not become God when on earth, he has been God throughout all eternity.

### 1) Jesus Christ is of the “being” of God; His nature is Divinity.

*“although He **existed** in the **form** of God”*

**existed** = (huparchein) It describes that which a man is in his very essence and which cannot be changed. It describes that part of a man which, in any circumstances, remains the same. Paul begins by saying that Jesus was essentially and unalterably God.

Col 2:9 For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, (Jn 1:1)

### 2) Jesus is in the form of God

There are two Greek words for form, (morphe and schema) they don't mean the same thing.

morphe = Is the essential form which never alters, never changes.

schema = Is the outward form which changes from time to time and from circumstance to circumstance.

Paul uses the word morphe for Jesus; saying His unchangeable being is divine.

Heb 1:3 He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, ...

### 3) Jesus is “equal with God”

*[He] did not regard equality with God*

Jn 20:28 Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!”

(Jn 5:18, 22-23; 8:58-59; 10:30, 33, 38; 14:9; Heb 5:5; Rev 1:17-18; 21:6)

### 4) Jesus refused to act selfishly despite his equality with God

*a thing to be grasped*, (harpagmos) (v. 6)

The Greek word used here, is difficult to interpret because it appears only here in the Bible. It means “robbery” or “something to be seized by force.” It is the picture of a thief seeking to snatch or take something that is not his.

## Jesus Christ – humiliation in becoming man (Phil 2:7)

In becoming man, Jesus stepped down from heaven; So great with this step that theologians do not call it the humility of Christ but the humiliation of Christ. Not only did he become the servant of God but also the servant of men.

The Lord whom we are to serve, came and served us.

The Lord whom we are to love, came and loved us.

The Lord whom we are to adore, came and adored us.

The Lord whom we are to wait upon, came and waited upon us.

The Lord whom we are to minister to, came and ministered to us.

The Lord whom we are to seek, came and sought us.

### Jesus laid aside his deity - but *emptied Himself*,

**emptied** (kenoun) = Means literally to empty; it is used of pouring something out of a container until there is nothing left.

Paul uses this imagery to make clear the sacrifice of the Incarnation; Jesus gave up willingly the glory of divinity to become man.

2Cor 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich.

### Jesus becomes God’s Servant - *taking the form of a bond-servant*,

**form** (schema) = Is the outward form which changes from time to time and from circumstance to circumstance

Isa 53:11 As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see it and be satisfied; By His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, As He will bear their iniquities. (Isa 42:1; 49:3-7; 50:10; 52:13)

### Jesus becomes human - and *being made in the likeness of men*

being made (gignesthai) = This verb describes a state which is not a permanent state. The idea is that becoming, it describes a changing phase which is completely real but which passes. The manhood of Jesus was not permanent.

Isa 7:14 “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel. (Mt 1:23; Gal 4:4; Heb 2:17)

Being found in appearance as a man,

Isa 53:2 For He grew up before Him like a tender shoot, And like a root out of parched ground; He has no stately form or majesty That we should look upon Him, Nor appearance that we should be attracted to Him.

## **Jesus Christ – humiliation in His death (Phil 2:8)**

### **Jesus humbled himself to the Father.**

*He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.*

Rom 5:19 ... through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous

**Jesus humbled himself to men.** Jesus humbled himself to die, he willingly allowed men to kill him. Christ humbled himself to suffer rejection, denial, cursing, abuse, arrest, torture, and murder at the hands of rebellious men, whom he had created and had come to save.

Jn 10:11 I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.  
(Five times He states this in Jn 10:11-18)

Christ humbled himself to become sin

2Cor 5:21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

## **Jesus Christ exaltation (Phil 2:9-11)**

*God highly exalted Him (v.9)*

Hebrews 2:9 But we do see Him who was made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone. (Heb 7:27; Ac 2:33)

*[God] bestowed on Him the name which is above every name (v.9)*

Eph 1:20-22 which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. 22 And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church,

Jesus is given supreme worship as Lord (vs. 10-11)

*at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,*  
(Rom 14:11; Rev 5:12; 15:4)

## **Application:**

The point of this passage is that we must allow the humility of Christ permeate our being. We are to walk in humility before each other even to the extreme of humiliation. Why? So that the church can be unified, having no divisions or schisms between us.

1Pt 5:5 ... and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.

Humility brings exaltation. God will exalt the man who humbles himself and works for the unity of the church.

Jas 4:10 Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you. (Lk 14:10; 22:26; 1Pt 5:5-6)

## **A study on the humility of Jesus Christ:** (from Dictionary of Bible Themes)

The obedient submission of Jesus Christ to his Father, seen in his willingness to become a human being for humanity's sake, his freedom from self-interest and his willingness to serve others.

Jesus Christ's willingness to become a human being

Phil 2:6-7 "human likeness" is not mere similarity to but identity with humanity. (Rom 8:3; 2Co 8:9)

Jesus Christ's humility predicted in the OT (Mt 12:19-20; Isa 42:2-3; 50:4-6)  
The suffering servant: Mt 8:17; Ac 8:32-33; Isa 53:2-7; 1Pt 2:22-24; Isa 53:9;  
The coming king: Mt 21:5; Jn 12:15; Zec 9:9; Zec 12:10  
The shepherd struck: Mt 26:31; Mk 14:27; Zec 13:7

The poverty of Jesus Christ's birth and upbringing  
Lk 2:7,12,16, 22-24 Only the poorest families offered doves or pigeons.

Jesus Christ's obedience to his human parents Lk 2:51

Jesus' obedience to his heavenly Father. Jn 5:30; 8:29; 15:10; Rom 5:19; 15:3; Phil 2:8; Heb 5:8

Jesus Christ's dependence on his heavenly Father. Jn 5:19; Jn 5:30; 17:7

Jesus Christ's submission to baptism. Mt 3:13-15; Mk 1:9; Lk 3:21

Jesus Christ's humble acceptance of ill treatment 1Pt 2:23; Mt 26:63, 66-67; 27:14, 28-30; Mk 14:61, 64-65; 15:5, 17-19; Jn 19:2

Jesus Christ's acceptance of the cross Phil 2:8; Mt 26:39, 53; Mk 14:36; Lk 22:42; 23:34; Heb 5:7

Jesus Christ's humility with other people  
Children: Mt 19:13-15; Mk 10:13-16; Lk 18:15-17  
Beggars: Mt 20:29-34; Mk 10:46-52; Lk 18:35-43  
Leprosy sufferers; Mk 1:40-42  
A Samaritan woman Jn 4:5-9

Jesus Christ's servant attitude Mk 10:45; Mt 12:19-20; 20:28; Jn 13:4-5,12; 2Cor 10:1

Jesus Christ's teaching about humility Mk 9:33-37; 10:42-45; Mt 18:1-5; 20:26-28; 23:8-12; Lk 9:46-48; 14:7-11; 18:9-14

Jesus Christ's humility as a model for others Jn 13:12-17; Mt 11:29-30; Eph 5:25; Phil 2:5; 1Pt 2:21

**References Used:**

The Preacher's Outline and Sermon Bible  
Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament  
The Complete Word Study Dictionary  
Wuest's Word Studies  
Vincent Word Studies in the New Testament  
Enhanced Strong's Lexicon  
The New Treasury of Scripture Knowledge  
Dictionary of Bible Themes