

09 Philippians 2:6-8

Christ Jesus Humbled Himself

1. Phil 2:6-9

- a. *What does it teach?* 2:6 Jesus is God; 2:7 He put on man's lowly likeness
 - i. 2:8 - As a man he humbled himself to be made sin and die for others
 - ii. 2:9 - This is why God exalted him above every name: low will be made high
- b. *Why Paul teaches it?* The mind of Christ is our pattern = not high-minded, esteeming ministry/service to others more than to himself. Seeing others benefit.
 - i. Not pleasing men in the flesh, but to benefit their souls - Ga 1:10, 2Co 12:15
 - ii. Life in Christ is not getting people to like you, it is doing the will of God

2. The Emptied Jesus Controversy (*Kenotic theology*)

- a. This passage indirectly teaches about the incarnation and deity of Christ
- b. 2:6-7 is translated in other Bibles and taught to say Jesus emptied himself of deity
- c. This error teaches that to put on humanity, he must empty some of his divinity
- d. MacArthur, Swindoll, Jordan, Sadler, Strong, and 18th c. German rationalists teach that Jesus emptied himself of his deity, glory, attributes

3. The Two Natures of Christ (*Hypostatic Union*)

- a. We serve one God in three persons - 1 John 5:7
- b. The person of the Son (Jesus) is the fullness of the Godhead bodily - Col 2:9, 1Ti 3:16
- c. Jesus Christ has two natures: one divine and one man; he is God and man in one
- d. One nature does not alter the other; we must identify which nature ...
 - i. Got hungry; walked on water; rebuked the wind; died, and rose again
 - ii. The two natures are the same person! Will you die or live forever?
 - iii. Was Christ of the world or not of this world? Yes. John 1:14, 8:23, Gal 4:4.
 - iv. Who raised Christ from the dead? Rom 8:11, Gal 1:1, John 10:18-19
 - v. Who didn't know? Who increased in stature? Mark 13:32, Lk 2:40, 49, 52
 - vi. Which nature is of no reputation? Not his divine nature, it is man likeness.
- e. Jesus' deity is never compromised, emptied, removed, or laid aside.

4. Why It Is Important

- a. Changing the deity of Christ changes the Godhead. Is it true of the Father, Spirit?
 - i. God humbled himself to behold his creation in Psa 113:6
- b. If Jesus is less than God, then his blood is not sufficient for your salvation.
- c. Christ could only die if he was man, he could only die for our sins if he was God.

5. Jesus Equals God Minus Nothing

- a. The incarnation of Christ did not subtract anything from God, it added humanity
- b. His divine nature was concealed (Heb 10:20), but revealed to those that received him - John 1:1-3, 1:11-14, Luke 9:27-36, and to others John 18:6, Acts 9:3-4
- c. He made himself of no reputation for our sake, which made him more not less.

Translations of Phil 2:6-8 affects the doctrine of the divinity and incarnation of Jesus

King James Bible (KJB)

6 Who, being in the form of God, **thought it not robbery to be equal with God:**

7 **But made himself of no reputation,** and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

English Standard Version (ESV)

6 Who, though he was in the form of God, **did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,**

7 **but emptied himself,** by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

New American Standard Version (NASV)

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.