

Week 5 - PHILIPPIANS 2:6-11

Humiliation to Exultation

Pauline Hymn: “Who, being in the form of God - There is scarcely any passage in the New Testament which has given rise to more discussion than this. The importance of the passage on the question of the divinity of the Saviour will be perceived at once..., in the fact that Paul regarded the Redeemer as equal with God. *If he was truly divine, then his consenting to become a man was the most remarkable of all possible acts of humiliation.*” (Albert Barnes, 1834)

vv 6-7 **Taking on the likeness of men**

Emptied Himself: [gk. *kenosis*] – Perhaps the most precious and painful theological idea. “Contrast Adam, who considered equality with God something to be seized. Adam tried to become like God by grasping, but Christ, who was God, became man by releasing.”

(Constable)

Midway Between Two Heresies

1. The Logos gave up all divine attributes
2. The Logos gave up relative attributes online [i.e. omniscience, omnipotence, omnipresence]
3. *The Logos gave up **independent** exercise of divine attributes*
4. Christ gave up the use of divine attributes
5. Christ acted as if he did not possess divine attributes

A. H. Strong, Systematic Theology

Hypostatic Union – The two natures of Christ – of the divine and of man – in one. (Council of Chalcedon, 451 A. D.)

The kenotic activity of Christ might be well considered not what he gave up, but what he took on, namely the likeness of men. Being found in the form of a man, he models total dependence on the Father, and obedience to the Father, in order to do the will of the Father for His life. In doing so, Christ gave up the outwardly glorified state, not finding his identity in the opinion of humanity, but intimately in the mind and heart of the Father.

v 8 **Taking on the ultimate humiliation**

CROSS – “*abori infelici suspendito*” - Cicero

Deuteronomy 21:22-23

A Man Hanged on a Tree Is Cursed

²²“And if a man has committed a crime punishable by death and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree, ²³his body shall not remain all night on the tree, but you shall bury him the same day, for a hanged man is cursed by God. You shall not defile your land that the LORD your God is giving you for an inheritance.

vv 9-11a **Bestowed the ultimate exultation**

hypersosen – superexalted

THE DAY OF THE LORD

v11 b **Humble even in Exultation**

“...to the glory of God the Father.”

Philippians 2:6-11 English Standard Version (ESV)

Christ's Example of Humility

2 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. ⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

John 1:1-4

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

John 17:5

When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, ² since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴ I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. ⁵ *And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.*