

# **Behave Yourself ... Have the Same Attitude as Jesus (1)**

## **Philippians 2:5-11**

*Theme: Christians must have the same attitude as that of Jesus (in order to foster unity in the local church).*

Paul took disunity in the Philippian Church seriously.

The Philippians were fundamentally united (2:1).

But they must work at cultivating unity in practice (2:2-4).

Paul gives them an example to follow – Jesus.

# **Just Look at Jesus! (2:5-11)**

2:5-11 is an exalted and beloved passage - a Christological gem.

Paul encourages the Philippians to look at and consider Jesus:

He commands: *Adopt towards one another, in your mutual relations, the same attitude that was found in Christ Jesus.*

*Self-humbling is to be the supreme virtue of each person in Christ.*

He says:

**1. Look at Who Jesus is (2:6a).**

- *Being* = essence, be really & truly.
- *Form* = unchanging essential nature.
- Jesus in His unchanging essence is God.

## 2. Look at What Jesus Did (2:6b-8). Jesus *humbled Himself*.

- 2:6b. Jesus did not hold on to equality with God as something to use for His own advantage. Instead He laid aside his rights in obedience to His Father and for the sake of His people.

-2:7. Speaks more of what  
Jesus *emptied Himself into*  
rather than what He emptied  
Himself *of*.

Jesus emptied Himself:

a) by *taking the form of a servant.*

Jesus in His essential nature became a slave. *Cf.* John 13:3-5.

b) And by *being born in human likeness.* Jesus identified completely with the human race by becoming man but He was also not *just* man:

How could Jesus, in earthly existence, be in the *form* of God and take the *form* of a man-servant?

This is the glorious mystery of the incarnation!

This is the extent of His self-emptying.

**2:8a.** Jesus grew and developed as  
a human being.

**2:8b-c.** This is the rock bottom of  
Jesus' humiliation.

## **Putting this all together:**

Jesus, Who is in essence God, did not hold on to His rights. He emptied Himself, became in essence a man/servant without ceasing to be God, and humbled Himself, becoming obedient to death on a cross.

## Why did Jesus do this?

In obedience to His Father (and for His people). He put others' interests before His own.

In other words Jesus did for His Father (and His people) what Paul is telling the Philippians to do for each other, *cf.* Phil. 2:3-4. This was the attitude of Christ.

We are to see Jesus' self-humbling  
and adopt his attitude of self-  
renunciation.

As we do 2:3-4 it will foster unity in  
our fellowship!

# Conclusion

**- Humility, Humility, Humility!**

What are the central principles of  
the Christian life?

*First, humility. Second, humility.  
Third, humility.*

St Augustine

*Self-humbling is to be the supreme  
virtue of each person in Christ.*

We will be humble like Jesus when  
we have His mind—2:6-8.

Let us sing this hymn (2:6-11) with  
our lives!