



World Christian Fellowship

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Book of Philippians

Lesson 14

Humility and Exaltation of Jesus Christ

Philippians 2:9-11, Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,¹¹ and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Unity as one, is the message of the apostle Paul in Philippians.

Philippians 1:27, Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel,

What would that be that would be worthy of the gospel of Christ?

To be worthy of bearing the name of Christ we must be in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.

There must be unity in the church.

Paul then expands on that.

Philippians 2:1-5, *Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, ²fulfil my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. ³Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. ⁴Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. ⁵Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,*

Then Apostle Paul goes on to say about Lord Jesus Christ.

Philippians 2:6-8, *who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, ⁷but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled*

Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

There is the model of humility.

The Son of God, who was and always will be God, did not regard that equality with God.

- Eternal equality with God, but divested Himself of the privileges of that identity,
- became a slave,
- became a man,
- humbling Himself to death, and
- even the most humiliating death.

That is the model of humility. Never was one so high who descended so low. This is the attitude we need to have.

Jesus starts from eternal deity; we start from a sinful position. We need to humble ourselves, and He is our example. He was willing to step down from heaven all the way to death on a cross for us, for our salvation.

Are we willing to humble ourselves to love each other, to manifest the unity that will bring honour to Him?

The One who humbled Himself before God was exalted by God to a place that was higher even than He had

been before. There were new honours, new privileges that were His. Even though He was the eternal God, even though He was all that God is, by His humiliation He was then honoured to a place with even more honour than He had had before.

Follow Christ. "Have this attitude in you,".

Humble yourself and let God exalt you. If you are spending all your time trying to exalt yourself and make sure you get what you want, and privileges and demands on the people around you then you are putting yourself in a very dangerous position.

Lord Jesus said it three times in the New Testament.

Matthew 23:12, *And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.*

Luke 14:11, *For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."*

Luke 18:14, *I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."*

So, take your choice. You can work very hard to exalt yourself and God will humble you, or you can humble yourself and the Lord will exalt you.

1 Peter 5:6, *Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,*

What does it mean “humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God”?

God is sovereign whatever difficulties you are going through, whatever issues you face in life, they are within the framework of the mighty hand of God. They are better for you if they humble you than they would be if they exalted you.

You are not humbling yourself under the hand of men or Satan, but you are humbling yourself under the sovereign, mighty, providential hand of God, knowing that whatever you may suffer will be turned to eternal joy and gladness and reward.

James 4:6, *But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: “God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.”*

Again, not under the mighty hand of God this time, but in the presence of the Lord, realizing that anything that comes into your life that humbles you, that diminishes you, happens in the presence of the Lord. Nothing is

outside His plan, outside His purpose and He will exalt you.

Psalm 119:161-163, *Princes persecute me without a cause, But my heart stands in awe of Your word. ¹⁶² I rejoice at Your word As one who finds great treasure. ¹⁶³ I hate and abhor lying, But I love Your law.*

So, here is the psalmist saying, I am being unjustly treated. Injustice and Persecution is a reality in life but in the midst of it all, he says, *“I stand in awe of Your word, and I trust in Your promise to lift me up.”*

Job had something of that in mind when he said in

Job 19:26-27, *And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, That in my flesh I shall see God, ²⁷ Whom I shall see for myself, And my eyes shall behold, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!*

The worst that can happen to you here turns to the best that can happen to you in the very presence of God Himself.

The apostle Paul says, “I have learned to be content to suffer.”

2 Corinthians 12:9, *And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in*

weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Paul says trials has an empowering work. Even in the midst of the trial and the suffering and the injustice and the things that are unfair, the Lord is shaping us. Humbling us shapes us.

The Lord is also, in the same very difficult circumstances, adding up our eternal reward. For those who suffer for Him will be glorified with Him and nothing can change that, because nothing can ever separate us from His love.

The message of being humble by the apostle Paul is a powerful. The humiliation of Jesus is a glorious theological reality. But Paul is using it here as an illustration of the kind of conduct he wants from believers.

We need to humble ourselves. However, much we can think of what we deserve or don't deserve think about Christ how He yielded Himself up.

We far lesser than Christ.

If Christ can humble Himself from a place which we can never think to such a lowly level then who are we, the worst sinners unwilling to humble ourselves?

When God exalts someone, He exalts him to the highest place.

1. God exalted Jesus Christ

Who exalted Christ?

It is God, who highly exalted Him.

Christ humbled Himself to die on a cross, to die as God's chosen Lamb, a sacrifice for sin. Because He came all the way down to the cross, God lifts Him all the way up to the highest exaltation in the heavens.

- God is the source of His exaltation.
- God is the one who exalts His Son.

Because of what Jesus did in His suffering and humiliation, God highly exalted Him.

- God raised Him from the dead,
- God drew Him into heaven,
- God seated Him at His right hand,
- God crowned with honour and glory.
- God exalted Him.

Acts 2:31-36, he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. ³² This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. ³³ Therefore being exalted ⁱⁱ to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear. ³⁴ "For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself: 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, ³⁵ Till I make Your enemies Your footstool." ' ³⁶ "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."

Verse 34 Peter quotes from the Old Testament **Psalms 110:1**.

All the way down to the cross, and because He humbled Himself to the cross, God exalted Him to the highest throne in heaven.

Acts 5:30-31, The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree. ³¹ Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Saviour, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.

God exalted Him because He had accomplished His work on the cross.

Ephesians 1:20-21, which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.

God highly exalted Him, placed Him at His right hand, far above, not just above, far above all rule, authority, power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age, but the age to come.

Hebrews 1:1-4, God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, ²has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; ³who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

God exalted Him to a place far above the angels.

Hebrews 1:5-14, For to which of the angels did He ever say: “You are My Son, Today I have begotten You”? And

again: "I will be to Him a Father, And He shall be to Me a Son"? ⁶ But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: "Let all the angels of God worship Him." ⁷ And of the angels He says: "Who makes His angels spirits And His ministers a flame of fire." ⁸ But to the Son He says: "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom. ⁹ You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions." ¹⁰ And: "You, Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands. ¹¹ They will perish, but You remain; And they will all grow old like a garment; ¹² Like a cloak You will fold them up, And they will be changed. But You are the same, And Your years will not fail." ¹³ But to which of the angels has He ever said: "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool"? ¹⁴ Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?

Of course, Jesus as God is incapable of being more than God. He didn't become more of who He was, it's just that there were more honours that belonged to Him.

Mark 5:7, *And he cried out with a loud voice and said, "What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God that You do not torment me."*

You can't be any higher than the Son of God.

But by the end of His redemptive work on earth and His ascension back into heaven and His coronation, He had won the final victory. He had accomplished redemption. Father had then raised Him from the dead, exalted Him to His right hand, and so He is now exalted as a Prince and a Saviour who has accomplished redemption. Around the throne are myriads and myriads of angels, ten thousand times ten thousand angels, and they all worship Him.

- His exaltation is not some alteration in His nature, it is simply that He receives more honour for the accomplishment of the cross, more honour.
- He becomes the King who has crushed the serpent's head.
- He becomes the Prophet who has spoken the truth, provided the gospel work that becomes the heart of the truth to be proclaimed to the ends of the earth for salvation.

- He always was the Priest, but now He enters into a level of priesthood in which He always intercedes for us.

Romans 14:9, *For to this end Christ died and rose and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living.*

He died and rose that He might be Lord, Lord of the dead and Lord of the living.

The exaltation of Christ is that God is the source!

2. The title of His exaltation: Jesus Christ is Lord

V 9, *Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,*

Hebrews 1:4, *“A name more excellent than the angels.”*

Ephesians 1:20, *“A name higher than all rule, authority, power and dominion, and every name that is named.”*

What is this name?

What is this title?

It is not Jesus, that was already His name.

- Abram became Abraham,
- Sarai become Sarah

- Jacob became Israel,
- Saul became Paul, and
- Simon became Peter.

V 11, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

“Jesus Christ is Lord.”

That’s the new name. It is the name that is above every name.

The name Jesus is not the name above every name, that’s just a reference to the Old Testament name Joshua. A lot of people had that name, meaning Jehovah saves.

But He is given a name above every name. This name causes every knee to bow.

Jesus had many titles:

- Messiah,
- Immanuel,
- Son of God,
- Son of Man,
- Christ,
- the Word.

But Lord is the name above every name, *‘kurios’*,

Meaning: “absolute ruler”.

The great Christian cry, “Jesus is Lord,” that is our confession. He is Lord.

It indicates,

- absolute power,
- absolute authority,
- dignity,
- honour,
- dominion,
- worthiness,
- rule.

According to the book of Romans if you want to be a Christian what you should do?

Romans 10:9, *that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*

It was His resurrection by which God honoured Him and established Him as Lord. God raised Him from the dead, drew Him to His throne, and crowned Him Lord.

The book of Revelation says, “King of kings and Lord of lords.”

So, the title of the exaltation of Christ is Lord, Lord of lords, Lord above all power, all authority, all dominion, every name that is named in this age or the age to come.

3. Worship

What is the response?

V10, *that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,*

This is the only appropriate response to Christ, and ultimately will be the response of everyone.

Everyone will one day bow the knee to Christ. Those of us who confess Jesus is Lord now, we have bowed the knee. Those who reject Christ and go into eternity without Him end up in eternal punishment in hell will every moment of their tenure in hell, every everlasting moment be recognizing that, in fact, Jesus is Lord, and they failed to acknowledge it.

The idea that He is Lord over those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth is not intended to make three distinctions between beings in locations, but simply to say that's everywhere.

You are either in heaven or on earth, or in the earth or under the earth. Covers the ground. Every knee will bow.

Isaiah 45:21-23, *Tell and bring forth your case; Yes, let them take counsel together. Who has declared this from ancient time? Who has told it from that time? Have not I, the Lord? And there is no other God besides Me, A just God and a Savior; There is none besides Me.* ²² *“Look to Me, and be saved, All you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other.* ²³ *I have sworn by Myself; The word has gone out of My mouth in righteousness, And shall not return, That to Me every knee shall bow, Every tongue shall take an oath.*

Isaiah 46:5-6, *“To whom will you liken Me, and make Me equal And compare Me, that we should be alike? ⁶They lavish gold out of the bag, And weigh silver on the scales; They hire a goldsmith, and he makes it a god; They prostrate themselves, yes, they worship.*

God declares that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, that is a declaration of the deity of Christ.

Conclusion:

The one true God, the Son came into the world, humbled Himself.

The Father then exalted Him, gave Him the title Lord over everyone.

Now commands that the entire universe of conscious beings bow their knee to Him.

- Whether they are angels or men and women, they all bow.
- Whether they are holy angels or damned angels,
- Whether they are saints or sinners, whether they are in heaven or hell, they all bow the knee, and they all ultimately confess Jesus is Lord.

Every tongue will confess, whether in hell or heaven, will say, “Yes, Jesus is Lord. Those who will be in hell will say that we rejected Him, we refused Him, but He is Lord.”

Purpose?

V 11, *“To the glory of God the Father,”*

The Father ultimately gets glory.

The Father is honoured when the Son is worshiped.

The Father said, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased. Listen to Him.”

The gospel is the story of humiliation and exaltation!

Don't spend your life trying to demand your rights, trying to get what you think you deserve, being angry at people or vengeful.

- Be humble.
- Don't be conceited, don't be self-centred.
- Be concerned about others.
- Be loving.

Do everything you can to create unity. Leave the future exaltation to the Lord, because when He does it, it's going to be so far beyond anything you can even imagine.