



World Christian Fellowship

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Book of Philippians

Lesson 12

Humility- Supreme

Philippians 2:5-8, *Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,⁶ who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,⁷ but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.*

Jesus Christ is our Role model in everything in our life and that life starts with Humility.

There are numerous books and articles and sermons about how to build yourself? There have been numerous materials available in the Christian book stores on how to get out of your low self-esteem. But you will hardly come across any book on how to think of

yourself low or lowliness in your thinking, which the bible teaches.

Until we understand the fullness of Jesus Christ incarnation as human and His death we will not grow in humility.

Our Lord Jesus left His Highest position on the universe and became a very lowest of all on earth. Not to have fun or joy but to suffer the crude death on the cross to take upon the judgement of God on Himself on behalf of us, which doesn't deserve?

Why did He do this?

Because of His abundant love He has for you and me.

Can you imagine God of this universe coming down to earth like us and bear all the punishment?

We should fill our hearts with love and devotion and make us realize that no personal sacrifice we make, no humiliation we go through, can ever match what our glorious Saviour did for us.

Jesus pre-existence as God

V 6, Jesus existed as God, one of the Trinitarian God before anything ever created.

John 1:1-3, In the *beginning was the Word*, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

Jehovah witness refuses to accept the deity of Lord Jesus Christ.

John 1:14, And the *Word became flesh and dwelt among us*, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 8:58, Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, *before Abraham was, I AM.*"

He is God! Before He came to this earth, Jesus dwelled in the indescribable glory and perfection of heaven, one with the Father and the Spirit, in the blessedness of the divine being. But He willingly left that glory to come to earth!

We need to understand that Jesus existed ever before anything existed as Godhead!

Hebrews 1:3, who *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

Colossians 1:15-16, *He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.*

John 14:9, *Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"*

V 6, *did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,*

Two reasons why Christ did not regard equality with God?

- He already had equality with God, so striving for that was not necessary.
- The Father would exalt Christ and restore Him to His full glory in the future.

So Jesus need not strive for either, when something already belongs to you, you do not need to "snatch at it." You already possess it.

When you have the confidence in God knowing that what He has promised will be restored then you don't have to strive to hold on to it rather you will be happy to let go and wait for God to restore it with joy.

As we have seen Jesus is the Godhead in human, when Isaiah the prophet prophesied about Jesus,

Isaiah 7:14, *Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name **Immanuel**.*

Immanuel meaning 'God with us'

Isaiah 9:6, *For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, **Everlasting Father**, Prince of Peace.*

Scripture makes it clear that Jesus is God.

We spent our entire life on to know about Trinity still we may not be able to grasp it in our finite mind but what we can settle safely is that

- God the Father is God
- God the Son is God
- God the Holy Spirit is God.

God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are together one singular God.

John 17:5, *And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with **the glory which I had with You before the world was.***

The glory that Jesus had before becoming a man was the very glory of the eternal God. That is the glory he left.

I am sure we all remember when we see the Old Testament when the people saw God in the throne room how they felt the awesomeness of who God is?

So far as to understand the humility of Jesus Christ first we need to know the amazing and awesome Glory He had!!

First step in Humility

V 7, ⁷but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.

We cannot fully comprehend all of what it meant for Jesus to become a man. But we do understand that He laid aside certain aspects of His deity to become a man. Jesus set aside the fullness of the glory He had with the Father when He became a man.

God is omnipresent. God is present everywhere rather He fills the whole universe. Jesus limited Himself to one physical body specially present in one location at a time during His life on earth.

He limited His omniscience. **Luke 2:52**, *And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and men.*

Jesus limited His Omnipotence. He became tired, hungry, thirsty and sleepy.

John 4:6, *Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from His journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour.*

Matthew 4:2, *And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry.*

Matthew 21:18, *Now in the morning, as He returned to the city, He was hungry.*

John 19:28, *After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I thirst!"*

Above alone would be a wonder above all wonders, and cause for us to be joyful, but Jesus did even more than this.

He owned everything. But when He came into this world He was borrowing everything from men.

- He had to borrow a place to be born.
- He had to borrow a place to lay His head.
- He didn't even have a home.
- He slept on the Mount of Olives for many nights.
- He had to borrow a boat to cross the little Sea of Galilee.
- He had to borrow a boat to preach from.
- He had to borrow an animal to ride into the city when He was being triumphantly welcomed as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.
- He had to borrow a room for the Passover
- He had to borrow a tomb to be buried in.
- Nobody gave Him anything.
- Nobody entrusted Him with any treasure.
- Nobody gave Him a home.
- Nobody gave Him animals to ride.
- Nobody gave Him land to call His own.

Nobody gave Him anything!

When Jesus left His glory, His Omnipresence, Omnipotent, etc. He did not come as an exalted man but as a servant. The word in Greek used is '**doulos**' which is the common word used for slave.

Mark 10:45, *For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."*

I am just thinking on a personal way, if I was in that place and chose to come as a man what I would have done?

Just imagine how you would have come?

If not as King or a Prince or someone or may be a prophet like Elijah or Moses.

But He came to be born in a poor family and served as a carpenter until He was 30.

He came as a common man in order to identify with man and become the High Priest,

Hebrews 2:17, *Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.*

Hebrews 4:15, *For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.*

Second Step in Humility

V8, *And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.*

The death on the cross never ever forced upon Jesus Christ. He took it upon Himself voluntarily.

Jesus deserves all the praise, honour, Glory and worship as they did on His triumphal entry to Jerusalem (**Matthew 21:15**) But Jesus said I have come down to die.

John 12:27, *“Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save Me from this hour’? But for **this purpose I came to this hour.**”*

Not only that after His resurrection He spoke to His disciples how it was necessary for Him to suffer and die.

Luke 24:46, *Then He said to them, “Thus it is written, and thus it was **necessary for the Christ to suffer** and to rise from the dead the third day,*

To die is bad, but many have died in a way as to bring fame and glory to themselves. They die in some noble manner and become heroes. But there is nothing noble about death on a cross.

Being stripped to nakedness, humiliated publically, beaten, bleeding, worn a crown of thorns, spat on and cruel death on the cross for the crime you didn't do!

It was a death of a criminal not an ordinary death!

Why?

Jesus has to die such a cruel death which was prophesied 1000 years before. We know Psalm 22.

Isaiah prophesied 700 years before Christ death how Jesus will die on a cross in Isaiah 53.

It was utterly humiliating to be stripped, hung in public with your crimes posted over your head, and then slowly suffocated by the weight of your own body. It was the means of execution for common criminals who were not Roman citizens. Jesus did not come to die an ordinary death. He had to die this certain type of death.

There were previous attempts on the life of Jesus Christ but it never could happen.

Luke 4:29, and rose up and thrust Him out of the city; and they led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city was built, that **they might throw Him down** over the cliff.

John 8:59, *Then they took up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.*

John 10:31, *Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him.*

John 11:8, *The disciples said to Him, “Rabbi, lately the Jews sought to stone You, and are You going there again?”*

Jewish punishment for the crime of blasphemy is to stone to death.

They did try many times yet they could not. Why?

Because death of our Lord Jesus has to demonstrate that He was taking the sins of the world and cursed by God.

Deuteronomy 21:22-23, *“If a man has committed a sin deserving of death, and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree, ²³his body shall not remain overnight on the tree, but you shall surely bury him that day, so that you do not defile the land which the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance; for he who is hanged is accursed of God.*

Galatians 3:13, *Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, **having become a curse for us** (for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”*

So Jesus dying on the cross is not an accident but it was the plan of God for our salvation.

1 Peter 1:18, *knowing that you **were not redeemed with corruptible things**, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, ¹⁹ but **with the precious blood of Christ**, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.*

Through the death, the cruel death, of Jesus Christ only we have redeemed.

This is what Jesus spoke in **John 3:14-15**, *And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.*

- Jesus willingly and humbly left the glory He had with God the Father!
- Through that you and me to be reconciled with God.
- Jesus has made it possible by paying the price for our sins which we could NEVER pay ourselves.

Our response is to believe and follow Him which includes Paul's command here to follow the example of His attitude.

True Humility:

1. True humility is a proper attitude toward self that results in proper actions toward others. ***"Have this attitude in yourselves"*** Jesus Christ could have thought, "I'm the eternal God. I'm not about to become a human being, let alone be a servant, let alone die!" Aren't we glad He didn't think like that?
2. True humility means renouncing self for the sake of others. Jesus had to renounce any self-will when He came to earth and went to the cross. In the garden, He prayed, ***"Not My will, but Yours be done"*** (Luke 22:42). Humility means dying to self-daily so that we can do the will of God.
3. True humility serves others in obedience to God, even at great personal cost. The cross was painful beyond description for Jesus, not just because of the physical pain, but because He who was totally without sin endured the wrath of God by becoming sin for us. Any personal cost we have to bear in serving Christ is nothing by

way of comparison, even if it means laying down our lives.

Application

1. As each of us is conformed to the image of Jesus Christ we must change our level of pride and humility.

Our pride will diminish as our humility increases. Our unity with one another will increase because we are regarding one another as more important than ourselves and looking out for each other's interests instead of just our own. That is conducting us worthy of the gospel of Christ.

Are you following Jesus as an example and if not are you willing to change your attitude to match His?

2. Jesus left the glories of heaven to become a man. What could you possibly have that is so important that you cannot set them aside to serve Christ as He directs you?

3. Jesus is God and should be served, yet He humbled Himself to serve the lowliest. What could possibly be so special about you that would keep you from serving God however and wherever He wants?
4. Jesus humbly submitted Himself to obey God the Father even to the point of death, including death on the cross. What could possibly be so important as to keep you from obeying God to the same degree if necessary?
5. If God wants you to do something that other people consider foolish, what could be so important about their opinions that pleasing them would be more important to you than pleasing God.?

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross song written by Isaac Watts lines echo in our hearts and in our minds.

**“Love so amazing, so divine, demands
my soul, my life, my all”**