

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
PAUL'S LETTER TO THE PHILIPPIANS – LESSON 5
PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11
WEEK OF OCTOBER 14 - 18

INCARNATION AND EXALTATION OF CHRIST

Last week in **Philippians 1:27 through 2:4**, Paul instructed the church to walk in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ by living with one another in unity. Paul instructed the Philippians that unity was a result of selfless love for one another and selfless love for one another was the result of humility. Paul continues with that theme in the passage before us this week by pointing to Christ as the supreme example of a life of humility, the example to follow to enjoy unity within the church. While providing this challenging and practical instruction, Paul delivers the profound theology of the incarnation (God, Christ, becoming human), condescension (Jesus voluntary descent from His position in heaven to live as a man on earth) and exaltation of Christ.

“The incarnation is the central miracle of Christianity, the most grand and wonderful of all the things that God has ever done. That miracle of miracles is the theme of **Philippians 2:5-8**. Some scholars believe this passage was originally a hymn sung by early Christians to commemorate and celebrate the incarnation of the Son of God. It has been called a Christological gem, a theological diamond that perhaps sparkles brighter than any other in scripture. In a simple, brief, yet extraordinarily profound way, it describes the condescension of the second person of the Trinity to be born, to live, and to die in human form to provide redemption for fallen mankind. [MacArthur New Testament Commentary Philippians](#), John MacArthur, page 118

1. Read the introductory section of this passage in **Philippians 2:5**. Paul instructs to “have this attitude in yourselves”.
 - a. Looking back to **verses 3 and 4**, how does Paul describe “this attitude”?

 - b. Looking forward to **verses 6 through 8**, how does Paul describe “this attitude”?

2. Paul said that Jesus “existed in the form of God” which means that Christ Jesus is fully God, co-equal and co-eternal with God, the father. In **verse 6**, what phrase did Paul use to point to the deity of Christ?

3. From **verses 7 through 9**, which phrases confirm the humanity of Jesus Christ?

4. How does Paul describe the steps of Christ’s descent from the heights of heaven into the depths of this world in the following verses?
 - a. **Verse 6**

 - b. **Verse 7**

 - c. **Verse 8**

In **verse 7**, Christ “emptied Himself”. Theologians describe this as the “*kenosis*”, the self-emptying of the Son of God. He did not give up His deity, He remained fully God and became fully man. “In the state of humiliation, the son of God fully possessed His divine nature, attributes and prerogatives but did not fully express them.” Essential Christian Doctrine, John MacArthur, page 153

5. In **verse 8**, what was the lowest point of Christ’s condescension?
6. From **verse 9**, what was the reason God highly exalted Christ?
7. In **verses 9-11**, Christ was given a new name or title as a result of God’s exaltation of Him. What was that title?
8. Lord, (*kurios*) means master, ruler, sovereign, supreme one. The title Lord indicates absolute power, absolute authority, dignity, honor, dominion and rule. What is the title given to Christ in **Revelation 19:16**?
9. In **verse 10**, Paul expresses that all redeemed and unredeemed humanity as well as angels and demons will acknowledge Jesus. From **verses 10 and 11**, what is the physical and verbal response to the exaltation of Christ Jesus?
10. What does **verse 11** tell us is the ultimate purpose of the exaltation of Christ?
11. After this journey into the glorious truths of Christology involving the humility and exaltation of Christ, remember where Paul started in **verse 5**, “have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus”. How does reflecting on Christ’s humility challenge you to worship Him?
12. Refer back to **Philippians 1:27**. Why is humility such an important quality in order to conduct ourselves “in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ?”

1 Peter 5:5-6 All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Therefore, humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God that he may exalt you at the proper time.