

Topic	The Lord Humbled
Reference	Philippians 2
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The first thing we are going to look at today is, why is it important to have this concept and connect and all these different dots of Jesus's life together, understand that he was God and then became man. I think that one word describes it and that word is vainglory.

3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.

He was talking to his church. There were troubles going on, people were arguing a bit and he says do not do anything out of selfish ambition or conceit. Another word for conceit is vainglory and actually the Greek word is made of two words, which means emptying glory. He is describing here the human condition, we are empty of glory and we try so many things to acquire glory for ourselves. Some of us go to the gym and workout to get glories bodies. Some of us see our glory in our children. Some of us we go out and we accumulate positions and possession and status and wealth. We do all kinds of things just to fill that gap that empty glory that we have inside of us. Usually we get it through getting the approval and the love and the esteem of others. We want to be respected, we want to have power of control, we want to have that glory and most of us think that bridge from our empty glory to having full glory is success. However we define success is how we think we will achieve that glory. Therefore we get our jobs and we get our positions and we get our titles and we kind of become little bit like drug addicts because when we first taste success we love it. Most people who are very driven and very ambitious come from a position of wanting more glory of actually having a low self-esteem and we try everything possible to acquire that esteem whatever we can.

Now people might say in this world right now the problem with us is that we try to get that approval and that love and that esteem from the outside world. So now New Age philosophy tells us, "No, no, you are getting all wrong, the reason you are so hungry for it is because you are trying to get it from all other places. What you must do, you must love yourself and you must approve of yourself and if you love yourself and approve yourself then you will not be running around like this hungry esteem success addict, you will feel good inside."

Does it work for us?

If we look at anthropology, philosophy, psychology, they all say one thing. *We are relational beings, we are communal beings.* If everybody thinks that you are a monster, saying that I love myself does not really fill you. We need the approval of others, we need the love of other, and we need the esteem of others. They say, *the praise of the praise worthy is above all reward.* We

want to be loved by others. So the problem is to counter the problem of self-esteem is to have the esteem, to have the love and to have the approval of those who we esteem.

Now there are different aspects of how that flashes out. Not everybody becomes driven. Our lowest self-esteem also flashes out differently, it flashes out in a way that we become shy or we don't want to go out, we don't want to communicate with people, we are very lowly people but in the same way we are only just thinking about ourselves.

So what is the solution to empty self?

Well Paul says this. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus. He says something happens with Christ and when we look at happens with Christ, the pilgrimage of Christ, the fact that he was God, became man and died and then rose again. *If we look at that and then have the same mind we will have fullness.* Paul said one thing, Christ emptied himself and it is interesting, I said that the problem is empty glory and here he uses the same word, Kenosis again and says Christ emptied himself. So somehow the thing that needs to be done is emptying and having the same mind of Christ to empty ourselves.

We will look at how Christ emptied himself. He did this in three ways.

- ❖ His renunciation.
- ❖ His incarnation
- ❖ His crucifixion

HIS RENUNCIATION:

We must understand one thing about Jesus first.

Who, being in very nature God,

He is in very nature God, he was, he is, he always will be, he was in the glorious place, he was with God, he is God and in John it says, the word was with God, the word was God and then the word became flesh but he was eternally, beautifully, majestically God. Of infinite status, he had infinite possession, infinite power. We can probably not even imagine how glorious and how beautiful and how majestic he was. He is the second person of the trinity, he always was God in very nature he is God and then it says

did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

In this world where we are all about claiming our entitlements, getting possessions and status, trying to rise the ladders and willing to hurt other people, step over people to get status, to get possessions and positions Jesus who was majestically God did not use that for his own advantage. He was willing to renunciate his position for us. He was willing to be humble to lose status so he can be in the business of reconciliation. He was willing to give up his titles, his position and possession so that he could reach out to mankind. How many of us are willing to

give over positions, our jobs, and our possessions so that we can reach out to others. That is what it means to have the mind of Christ.

HIS INCARNATION:

Jesus also became man. Jesus never became an aristocrat; he did not come in as a king. He came here as a servant. It says

⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

In Mark 10:45 Jesus says, I did not come here to be served but I came here to serve.

How can we serve people? Who had God put in our life that we can serve to connect that person with Christ.

When Jesus became man he did not lose any of his deity, he did not give up his Godness. He was still fully God. He just took on humanity, completely he gave himself completely at the same time he was 100% God, 100% man. He became God and man in various ways. He became man completely in body. He had a human body. He was not a different kind of species. No he was fully man and we see that throughout scripture.

- ✓ The Word became Flesh (John 1:14)
- ✓ He was born (Luke 2:7).
- ✓ He grew (Luke 2:40, 52).
- ✓ He grew tired (John 4:6)
- ✓ He got thirsty (John 19:28)
- ✓ He got hungry (Matthew 4:2).
- ✓ He became physically weak (Matthew 4:11;)
- ✓ He died (Luke 23:46).
- ✓ And he had a real human body after his resurrection (Luke 24:39; John 20:20, 27).

He also had human emotions, he had a human heart, and he felt human feelings.

- ✓ When Jesus heard the centurion's words of faith, "he marveled" (Matthew 8:10).
- ✓ He says in Matthew 26:38 that his "soul is very sorrowful, even to death."
- ✓ In John 11:33–35, Jesus is "deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled," and even weeps.
- ✓ John 12:27 says, "Now is my soul troubled," and in John 13:21, he is "troubled in his spirit."
- ✓ The author to the Hebrews writes that "Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears" (Hebrews 5:7).

He became human in emotion. He became human in heart. He also became human in mind.

- ✓ Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man. (Luke 2:52)

- ✓ *(he had a limited mind as well)* “Concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.” (Mark 13:32)

So something about him was human, was finite. He had limitation yet he also had a divine mind which he knew everything at the same time as well. He knew everything in his divine mind but he was limited in his human mind.

He became human in will

- ✓ “I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me.” (John 6:38)
- ✓ Jesus prays to the Father, “Not as I will, but as you will.” (Matthew 26:39)

So in one way, yes he is God and has the same will as God, divine will but at the same time he had a human will and he came just to do the God will and not the human will and Jesus prayed to the father, *not as I will, but as you will*. Jesus understands the conflict of two different wills fighting against each other. He had both a divine will and a human will.

Why is that so important that he gave himself completely to mankind?

- He took on a human body to save and heal our human bodies.
- He took on a human mind to save and heal our human minds.
- He took on human emotions to save and heal our hearts
- He took on a human will to save and heal our wondering straying wills.

He became man in full so that he might save us in full. He saved us completely. He became 100% man.

He became man eternally. Right now Jesus is sitting on the right hand of heaven of God he still is man. His incarnation, his stint of humanity was not just a 33 year stint. When he became man, he became man forever. Because when he rose again he had a human body. He walked about, he ate fish, he was recognizable and then when he ascended a voice said “just as he ascended in the same way he will come down again.”

In the vision of Daniel and in the vision of John we see that, like somebody son of man will come down. For this reason he can be our high priest that is way he can be our advocate. Jesus is not just in his mission and in his purpose about the reconciliation between God and man, he is in his very nature the reconciliation between God and man and that gives us hope because it means that God has fully invested himself completely for eternally into mankind. Nothing now can separate us from the love of God, heaven or hell, no angels, no demons, nothing created, nothing can separate us from the love of God. He is eternally invested and it means one thing that the plan for humanity is stupefying the glorious that God would be man eternally and this man became servant and this man died for us. This God-man was willing to humble himself onto crucifixion. While we were yet sinners, while we were trying to attain glory from all other

places or we acquire idols, money, wealth, position, status, while we are doing all these things he was willing to die for us and on that cross he said, “Lord, Lord, why have you forsaken me”. God did not give him love, God gave him wrath. God didn’t give him approval, God forsake him and he did that so that when we now come to God and look for love and look for approval, look for praise, look for acceptance we receive it because of what Christ did on the cross. He died the death we should have died and he did that while we were yet sinners.

We always thought that the road to glory was success and Jesus shows us a different bridge. He shows that the road to glory, the bridge to glory is grace, unmerited favor lavished out upon us.

Because of what Jesus has done God exalted him and gave him the name above every name. He raised him up into even greater glory than he ever had. The name above every name is Lord, being above all things. Now this is not a title he never had but it is a title he was willing to give up and the first time he achieved it back as the Messianic Lord, he is Jesus Christ lord and that tells us something about how this world works, it gives us insight on reality.

- ✓ You want to be rich, give away your money.
- ✓ You want to lead, serve.
- ✓ You want to be happy, stop focusing on our own happiness and make your life about serving others and making other people happy.

We live in an upside down kingdom. Jesus said to be his disciple we must deny ourselves, pick up our cross and follow him.

QUESTION:

- What position, what status, what possession, and what wealth are we willing to give up to connect somebody to Christ?
- Who are we willing to serve?
- Where are we willing to humble ourselves, give ourselves completely to mind, body, will emotionally?
- To whom are we willing to give ourselves to and serve them so we can connect them to Christ?
- Who are we willing to suffer for to connect them to Christ?

Jesus says, there is no greater love than this to lay down your life for another.

David Platt in his book Radical said

“We are settling for a Christianity that revolves around catering to ourselves when the central message of Christianity is actually about abandoning ourselves.”

It is about emptying ourselves and as we empty ourselves and as we look what Jesus has done that fills us completely. It fills us eternally and makes us ready to be able to empty ourselves.

Jesus was God and he was willing to give up possession status and then humbled himself to serve and to die. Let's have that in mind what he was willing to do for us

1So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy,

2complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

3Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.

4Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

5Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,