

The Humiliation of God in Flesh

Philippians 2:5-11

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / December 3, 2023

Christmas reminds us that every single one of us can have more than just a brush with greatness. You can have a personal relationship with the God of the universe through His Son, Jesus Christ.

I. That Baby in the Manger Is Your Creator God Who Gave You Breath

Philippians 2:6 "...who, though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped."

NIV "...Who, being in very nature God.."

Philippians 2:7 "But made Himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men."

No deity was *subtracted* (though He did renounce some of His privileges as deity); humanity was *added*. When you're trying to understand what it is that Jesus is laying aside, make sure you don't diminish His deity. Jesus temporarily laid aside the *expression* of His deity in all of its glory, but He never laid aside the *possession* of it.

II. That Baby in the Manger Is the Savior Who Came to Redeem You

Philippians 2:8 "And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."

2 Corinthians 5:21 "For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God."

This was humiliation on a mission and with a purpose! This little baby was born to die. He was born with the express purpose of doing what the rest of us human beings spend our whole lives trying to avoid!

Matthew 1:21 "...you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."

John 12:23-24, 27-28 "...The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified. Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain... 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. Father, glorify Your name..."

III. That Baby in the Manger Is Our Only Hope for Real and Radical Change

The Bible puts Jesus at the center of the answer for four of the problems we struggle with the most: pride, self, hurt, and money.

A. You'll Keep Fighting for Your "Rights" Until You're Gripped by His Humility

Philippians 2:1-4 "So 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."

B. You'll Hold on to Your Life Until You're Gripped by His Death

- Relationships in General Fall Apart without Death to Self

2 Corinthians 5:14-15 "For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that One has died for all, therefore all have died; ¹⁵and He died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for Him who for their sake died and was raised."

- Marriage in Particular Becomes War without Death to Self

Ephesians 5:22-32 “Wives, submit to your own husbands, **as to the Lord**.²³ For the husband is the head of the wife **even as Christ** is the head of the church, His body, and is Himself its Savior.²⁴ Now **as** the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, **as Christ** loved the church and gave Himself up for her,²⁶ that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,²⁷ so that He might present the church to Himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.²⁸ In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, **just as Christ** does the church,³⁰ because we are members of His body.³¹ ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.’³² This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.”

C. You’ll Hold on to Your Hurt Until You’re Gripped by His Forgiveness

Ephesians 4:32 “And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, **even as** God in Christ forgave you.”

Colossians 3:13 “...if anyone has a complaint against another; **even as** Christ forgave you, so you also must do.”

D. You’ll Hold on to Your Money Until You’re Gripped by His Sacrifice

2 Corinthians 8:1-2, 7, 9 “We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia,² for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part...⁷ But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also...⁹ For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you by His poverty might become rich.”

IV. That Baby in the Manger is Now King of Kings and Lord of Lords

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.”

- Notice the verb tenses in **v. 9** – “has highly exalted Him... and given Him”
- The phrase “highly exalted” is one word in the Greek, “hyperypso,” which means super exalted or hyper exalted
- Notice the modifiers in **v. 10** – “every knee... every tongue”

When He returns, every living creature will see Him riding a white horse, the trumpet will sound, He’ll split the sky from the east to the west, and every man, woman, boy, girl, and living creature will bow their knee and call Him “Lord!”

Revelation 19:6-7, 11-16 “Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, ‘Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.⁷ Let us rejoice and exult and give Him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His Bride has made herself ready’...¹¹ Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.¹² His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems, and He has a name written that no one knows but Himself.¹³ He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which He is called is The Word of God.¹⁴ And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following Him on white horses.¹⁵ From His mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.¹⁶ On His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.”