

Wil Owens

The Humility of Christ and the Lord's Supper; Phil 2:5-11

GPBC

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Introduction – If you have been a believer for some time, you are probably familiar with this passage or at least the last 2 verses. The big picture here, as far as the context of these verses, is Paul compelling us to pursue humility as individuals, for the sake of unity as a whole, in order to advance the gospel. A divided church is not a winsome, compelling witness of the gospel. So underneath us, Paul lays a foundation of all that God has given us to pursue humility – encouragement in Christ, comfort of love, participation in the Spirit, affection, and sympathy. We can stand on these God-given graces and actually become humble people. But Paul has not only built a foundation underneath us, he has placed a great goal and example before us; Christ. Let Christ be our goal – have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus. Pursue Christ and you will pursue the ultimate example of humility. That's the context.

What I want to do this morning, in unpacking these verses that set forth the humility of Christ, I want to relate them to the Lord's Supper by focusing in on words that come to mind.

- I. Surrender and Submission (vv6-7)
  - a. Paul describes what was required of Jesus in order for Him to take on the mission of redeeming sinners. He intentionally took action. There were things that He must do if He is going to be the Savior. So, don't let it get by us that Christ is becoming these things in order to advance the gospel.
  - b. Emptied Himself – surrender. If we are going to be like Christ, and be a humble people, surrender will surface in our lives. There will be things that we are called to give up, to forego, to let go.
    - i. Paul writes, "He was God but He did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped." He surrendered what He by nature deserved! He was God and so by nature He deserved to be recognized and worshipped and seen as God. But He set that aside and rather took on the form of a servant. He surrendered what was rightfully His in order to accomplish redemption. He went as far down the ladder of status as He could possibly go.

- ii. Now, make no mistake about it, as God He is going to get what He deserves – vv10-11. But He was willing to temporarily set that aside in order to save sinners. To advance the gospel. Rather than be served, He came to serve.
  - iii. How much of what is ours would we be willing to set aside for the sake of the gospel? How far are we willing to go to be a servant for the sake of the gospel? Time. Position. Preferences. Recognition. We should all answer that question individually and specifically. How can I get out of the way for the gospel? How can I be of service to the gospel?
- c. Humbled Himself – submission. Humbled Himself by becoming obedient. He submitted Himself to the Father’s will and plan to save His people.
  - i. There is no doubt, if we are going to advance the gospel, at some point in our lives we will have to humble ourselves if we are going to submit to our Father’s will. When we reach the crossroads of our plan and God’s plan, the presence or absence of humility in our lives will be the difference in which path we choose.
- d. Humility involves surrender and submission, and in some degree, sacrifice. In a few moments we will gather around this table that means we have a Savior. Christ has come and bled and died for sin that we might be reconciled to God, that we might be forgiven of our sin, that we might have eternal life. But there would be no salvation, there would be no Savior, if Christ had not in humility surrendered and submitted. When we put the wafer and the juice to our lips this morning, we would do well, as His people, to ponder how our lives are portraying our Savior. Every step toward Christ is a step in humility.

## II. Sacrifice and Salvation (v8)

- a. How far was Christ obedient to the Father – to the point of death. Now you really have to trust God and believe God – that He knows what’s best and He is what’s best and His will is going to turn out for your best to go that far. The Son did! Why would we have any reason to doubt?

- b. But Paul says not just any death – even death on a cross. Jesus went beyond just being willing to die to rescue us. The plan all along was that He would die. But it wasn't to be a peaceful passing in His sleep or a sudden, quick cardiac arrest, or a humane form of execution like lethal injection – it was to be the most painful, agonizing, shameful, humiliating, violent, gruesome way to die – the cross. And Christ knew that long before He came to Calvary. He knew the depth and anguish of the sacrifice.
  - c. Why was it necessary that Christ die such a cruel death? Why the cross? The cross will forever remind us just how ugly our sin is and the price that had to be paid to free us from it! Let us dare not excuse our sin as a habit, a slip up, a weakness, or a mistake. It is sin. Christ did not go to the cross for a slip up! And if He didn't pay for our sin, we would!
  - d. When we struggle with humility, when our pride raises its arrogant head, look to the cross. When we eat the wafer and drink the juice, remember the body of Jesus broken, the blood of Jesus shed – for what reason – why must our Savior suffer so? My sin. For my sin He was beaten. For my shame and guilt, He was pierced. He gave all that I may be set free and made new! The cross is personal! If you haven't taken the cross personally, you haven't taken the cross!
  - e. Humility will involve sacrifice. Obedience will involve sacrifice. But to what end? Will it be worth it if we humbly lay our lives down for the gospel? Look to Jesus!
- III. Exaltation and Glory (vv9-11)
- a. As far as Christ humbled Himself, to a servant, to death, to the cross, and finally to the grave – God, pleased with His Son, has raised Him to the highest height.
  - b. When Christ returns, there will not be one angel or one demon or one human in all of history standing. The only one standing will be Christ. He'll be the only one standing, and He'll be the only one silent. Everyone else will be proclaiming that He is Lord! You see, that wasn't happening before He came to earth as a servant and died on the cross – but it will happen now! That's what the therefore is there for.
  - c. And all of the honor given to Christ will serve to glorify the Father!

- d. When we remember the Lord's sacrifice for our sin today, remember the story of our redemption does not stop at the cross – the best is yet to come!