



Home for Christmas

an Advent Series

Home for Christmas
Humble
Philippians 2:5–11

Series Outline: Humble Servant, Divine King

Philippians 2:5–11

5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, **6** who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, **7** but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. **8** And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. **9** Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, **10** so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, **11** and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Christ Humbly Let Go – v. 6

- “who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped”
- He is in the form of God

- “Begotten from the Father before all ages . . . begotten, not made; of the same essence as the Father” (Nicene Creed)
- Heresies:
 - Adoptionism – Jesus was not God’s son from beginning but adopted by God sometime in his life (e.g., birth, baptism, transfiguration, resurrection); denies Christ’s pre-existence and therefore deity
 - Arianism – Jesus is God’s greatest created being; denies fullness of Christ’s deity.
- He is equal with God
- He did not “grasp” that equality
 - “The verse does not teach that Jesus quit trying to attain equality with God. Rather, Paul emphasizes that Jesus did not take advantage or exploit the equality with God that he already possessed” (Thomas Schreiner, *New Testament Theology*, 325).

Christ Humbly Put On – v. 7

- “but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men”
- He emptied himself
- He took the form of a servant
 - “Without losing what He was, He determined to be Himself made what He had made. It was He Himself who made what He would be; for He only added human nature to his divine nature and did not lose His divine nature in becoming man” (Augustine, *Sermons for Christmas and Epiphany*, 112).
 - Heresies:
 - Docetism – Jesus just appeared human; denies the true humanity of Jesus.
 - Apollinarianism – Jesus did not have a rational spirit; denies full humanity of Jesus.
- He was born in the likeness of humanity
 - “Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people” (Hebrews 2:17).

Christ Humbly Laid Down – v. 8

- “And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross”
- He humbled himself
 - “In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 And all went to be registered, each to his own town. 4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, 5 to be registered with Mary, his

betrothed, who was with child. 6 And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn" (Luke 2:1–7).

- He was obedient to death
- He died on a cross
 - "Since neither as God alone could he feel death, nor as man alone could he overcome it, he coupled human nature with divine that to atone for sin he might submit the weakness of the one to death and that, wrestling with death by the power of the other nature, he might win victory for us" (John Calvin, *The Institutes of Christian Religion*, 2.12.3).

Follow Jesus to life

- Jesus is the way to salvation
- "9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:9–11).

Follow Jesus for life

- Jesus is the example
- "So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, 2 complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. 3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:1–5).