



A VINTAGE CHRISTMAS

A Vintage Christmas
What Child Is This
Philippians 2:5–11

The Son of God became the Son of Man to humbly serve us and humbly obey God.

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.

This child is the Son of God

- “who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped” (v. 6).
- How does Paul describe Jesus?
 - “Form of God”
 - “Equality with God”
 - “4 I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. 5 And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed” (John 17:4–5).

- “He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature” (Hebrews 1:3a).
- How does the church describe Jesus?
 - “We believe . . . in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, begotten from the Father before all ages, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made; of the same essence as the Father. Through him all things were made” (Nicene Creed).
- Yet He humbly served
 - “he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death” (v. 8).
- Put Others First
 - Our pride and selfishness keep us from putting others first.
 - “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” (Philippians 2:1–4).

This child is the Son of Man

- “but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form” (vv. 7-8a).
- How does Paul describe Jesus?
 - “Emptied himself”
 - “Form of a servant”
 - “Born in the likeness of men”
 - “Found in human form”
- How does the church describe Jesus?
 - “For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and was made human. He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried” (Nicene Creed).
 - “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14).
 - “The Hebrew term for ‘flesh’ in Scripture refers to everything about a human being that is vulnerable and needy, subject to hurt, trauma, wounds, and disease” (Phillip Cary, The Nicene Creed, 111).
 - “He remained what he was and took up what he was not” (Gregory of Nazianzus, Oration 29: 19).
- Yet he humbly obeyed
 - “he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death” (v. 8)
- Put God First
 - Our pride and selfishness keep us from putting God first.

What child is this, who, laid to rest
On Mary's lap, is sleeping?

Whom angels greet with voices sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing
Haste, haste to bring him praise
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

This child is God the Son Incarnate