

# Philippians

## (6) The Attitude of Christ

Phil 2:5-9

5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. 8 Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

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### Christ, His attitude as God ...2:5-6a

What is the basic theme of 2:1-4? 2:3-4; Rom.12:10; Eph.4:2; IPet.5:5

**Believers are to strive for unity. Humbly looking on the interests of others over self.**

What is Paul's *purpose* as he introduces this magnificent revelation of Christ (2:6-8)? 2:5

**To put before the Church the incredible goal of having the same attitude that Christ has.**

Before describing the humility of Christ, of what does Paul remind us? 2:6a; Heb.1:3; Jn.1:1-2

**He existed in the form of God. These two words, *existed* and *form*, define His eternal being.**

What does *existed* indicate? Jn.17:5; Heb.13:8

**huparcho=continuance of a previous state/existence. That nature that's unalterable.**

And what does 'in the form of' indicate?

**morphe=form, outward never-changes manifestation of inner reality. Jesus is 100% God.**

Compare *morphe* with *schema* (translated as *likeness of*, 2:7). What's the difference?

**schema=outward form/fashion that *does* change. Baby, child, adult. The form of a man.**

How is all this truth encapsulated in other Scriptures? Col.1:15; Jn.1:1-2, 17:5, 24; Heb.1:2-3

**Jesus is the express image of God. He is God. Always was, always will be, God.**

How important is this fundamental truth? IIJn.7-11; Jn.8:21-24

**Rejecting the deity of Christ is fatal! Apart from Christ being God there is no salvation.**

Why is this fundamental truth also the very foundation of this (2:5-8) passage?

**For Jesus to become anything other than God, is a descent. Selfless humility. Example!**

### Christ, willing to descend ...2:6b

What is the first thing Christ did to 'not grasp' being God? 2:6b

**He does not cling to (insist upon) His rights as God! And He has ALL rights! He's God!**

Does this mean that Christ gave up 'being God'? Heb.13:8

**Never! That is His morphe. But He voluntarily yields full "equality" with God.**

How was this seen during His ministry? Jn.17:1-2, 5; 5:19-23

**Jesus could have done anything as God, but He yielded the exercise of that power.**

NEXT: What does it mean that "He emptied Himself...?"

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