

**Christmas 2025**

**December 21, 2025**

**Theme: The Humility and the Humiliation of the Incarnation of the Son of God**

**Title: The Humility of the Incarnate Son of God; Philippians 2:5-11**

Many times, when a baby is born optimism for a great future is high. Parents and grandparents look at the baby and declare, "This child will do great things." Of course they don't really know how things will turn out. Hopeful thinking.

How could those closest to Jesus be sure that He would do great things? How could Joseph know? How could Mary know? How could Zechariah and Elizabeth know? How could the shepherds know? How could Simeon know? How could Anna know? A simple answer: They had been taught to look for the coming of the Christ by having knowledge of the OT prophecies. And they were not overly surprised when face to face with divine revelation.

Beyond those who were closest the birth of Jesus was just a birth. Many people today break open the box that they stored the baby Jesus and put the figurine on display. And when the season is over, back in the box it goes. For some Christians Christmas is special because it is the one time of year that they can witness to the world their faith in the birth of Jesus, and in a way, feel a sense of triumph that God became human.

**I) The Son of God before His incarnation.**

- A) Enjoying the Unity/Triunity in the Godhead eternally before the creation of the world. John identifies Jesus as the "Word" or the eternal reason for the existence of everything. He, the Word, was present in the Godhead in the beginning. "In the beginning was the Word (His eternity), and the Word was with God (His personality, distinct from the Father and the Holy Spirit; distinct within the Triune God.), and the Word was God (His Deity). He was with God in the beginning." (John 1:1-2)
- B) He enjoyed eternal glory in the presence of the Father (John 17:5) and eternal worship of angels (Is. 6:1-8).
- C) Before the creation of the world, He was preparing to redeem the people prepared for Him according to God's set purpose and foreknowledge. (Eph. 1:4: "For He (God the Father) chose us in Him (the Son) before the foundation of the world.")
- D) Creation: John 1:1-3 tells us that the Word, the eternal Son of God, shared creative agency within the Godhead, "creating all things through Him." (see also Col. 1:16)
- E) Sustaining all things in the universe by His powerful word. (Col. 1:17: "He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together." Hebrews 1:3: "...sustaining all things by His powerful word.")
- F) Providing revelation to the prophets concerning the salvation of His people (1 Peter 1:10), His sufferings and the glories that would follow. (1 Peter 1:11b: "...the Spirit of Christ in them (the prophets) was pointing when He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow.")

**II) His incarnation was a continual process of humility and humiliation for our salvation. (Phil. 2:5-11)**

- A) His incarnation reveals genuine humility.
  - 1) He humbly set aside His eternal glory and divine privileges as the adored Son of God.
    - (a) (2:5) "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:"
      - (i) He exemplified Paul's exhortation found in **2:3-4**.
  - 2) His incarnation was humble
    - (a) Virgin birth. Loved by those who believe, but the skeptics sincerely reject this.
    - (b) Born in primitive surroundings in a poor family. Not what you expect for a King.
    - (c) Shepherds and wise men and a couple others worshipped Him. But beyond that small circle...
    - (d) As a baby His existence posed a threat to Herod. Persecuted. Fled to Egypt.
  - 3) His incarnation was in a sense His incarceration.
    - (a) (2:6-7) He humbled Himself by becoming human:
      - (i) (2:6) His divine attributes were never lost, but He refused to insist on His divine rights.
      - (ii) (2:7) He veiled His divine glory in human flesh, confining Himself to a human body, taking the form of a servant in human flesh!
        - (a) In every appearance He was just like us, yet without sin (Heb. 4:15)

- (b) He took up our infirmities in His human flesh: Hunger, pain, betrayal, weariness, grief, abandonment, misunderstanding, false accusations, slander, etc.
    - B) He suffered relentless humiliation.
      - 1) He, the Righteous One, willingly subjected Himself to the Law. NOT BECAUSE He needed to, but because we needed someone to fulfill the Law for us. The Law reflects His holy character.
      - 2) Constantly doubted, questioned, cross examined, accused of being a devil, of being possessed by demons, of being a drunkard, a friend and cohort of sinner, of being an illegitimate son, of being cursed by God, an enemy of God, a deceiver of Israel, etc.
        - (a) Though He never broke the Law, he was treated like a lawbreaker bearing daily the shame of lawbreakers.
    - C) His humble life and His humiliation led to the ultimate humiliation of the cross.
      - 1) Anyone found worthy of death on a Roman cross was considered the most despicable kind of human.
        - (a) The cross was a place cursed by men and by God. (Gal. 3:13)
        - (b) The cross was a place where the guilty were paraded before all humanity.
      - 2) The cross of Christ was a cross of substitution
        - (a) Isaiah 53:4-5: “Surely, He took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows (*substitute*), **yet we considered Him stricken by God, smitten by Him, and afflicted** (*like it was for His own sins He suffered*). BUT *He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities*; the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed.”
          - (i) The shame and pain was ours not His.
            - (a) **2 Cor. 5:21**: “God made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.”
- III) **Why did He do this? Why subject Himself to unjust suffering and humiliation for His whole life?**
  - A) What was the motivation?
    - 1) Love, **John 3:16; 1 John 4:10**: “This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as the propitiation for our sins.” **Romans 5:8**: “But God demonstrates His love for us in this: while we were yet sinners (guilty, caught-red-handed, bathing in the love of our sins), Christ died for us.”
    - 2) John 17:19, “For their sakes...”
      - (a) He suffered the guilt, shame and curse of our sins for us, in our place He stood condemned.
        - (i) For our redemption: Gal. 3:13: “Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: ‘Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.’”
      - (b) The eternal glorious Son willingly suffered unto death to bring us near to God.
        - (i) Eph. 2:13: “But now in Christ Jesus you who were once far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.”
  - B) What did His humiliation and sacrifice achieve?
    - 1) The very thing that was on the heart of the Father and the Son before the foundation of the world!!!
      - (a) The salvation of His people from their sins: The guilt and shame, and the punishment, death and wrath of God justly exercised upon the guilty.
    - 2) By His stripes we are healed!
      - (a) His suffering, trials, afflictions and pain and death was ours. But as our substitute His suffering transforms our trials, suffering, pain and death.
        - (i) From **condemnation to justification to glorification.**
      - (b) “Through Him we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us!” Rom. 8:37
  - C) Redemption accomplished, the Father appeased, what did God the Father do for our Lord Jesus?
    - 1) Phil. 2:9-10
      - (a) God exalted Him (eternally vindicated His name and reputation in heaven and earth!)
      - (b) Christ, the risen God-man is worshiped by all (“every knee shall bow and every tongue confess”)
      - (c) Christ Jesus is exalted in heaven and earth, crowned Lord of all!

What can you do with this during Christmas season? Don't be ashamed to testify and bear witness to Him before others. He gave up His glory, His reputation and became poor for your sake. What will you give to Him?