

Sermon Discussion

4 October 2020

Read Philippians 2:1-11 together.

Dig Deeper

This section of Paul's letter states that Jesus "emptied Himself" (NASB), "made himself nothing" (ESV/NIV), or "laid aside His privileges" (NASB margin). The Greek word is the term "kenosis" which refers to the doctrine of Christ limiting Himself when He became a man.

Paul described Jesus' self-emptying as taking the form of a bond-servant. "Taking" does not imply an exchange but adding something. The Lord did not lay aside the form of God; He did not cease to be God. He added the "form" of man. Jesus became in the likeness of men which does not mean exactness. Even though Jesus had a fully human nature, that nature was not sinful. Every other human being has a sinful human nature. Jesus had a divine nature as well as a human nature.

1. What kind of motivations does Paul give for the church to serve one another with compassion in 2:1-4?
2. Do you find it challenging to avoid rivalry and to put the needs of others ahead of your own? How would your church be different if everyone faithfully lived out Philippians 2:3-4?
3. What would happen in our relationships if we lived out Philippians 2:5-11? How can you go from being a "grasper" to a "giver"?
4. What will it look like for you humbly to submit to the will of God in your life right now? How does the gospel enable you to do this gladly, rather than grudgingly?

Application & Prayer

- Read Isaiah 53, and marvel at the humility of Christ and at His atoning work.
- The passage ends by saying that Christ's work was done "to the glory of God the Father." Is your great aim to live a humble, others-oriented life for the glory of the Father, through Jesus? Pray for a deeper desire to live for God's glory by following Christ's example.