

The Way up is Down (Phil 2:1–11)
GCC, Morning Worship, 10/13/19

Introduction: Jesus had a counterintuitive approach to greatness

- I. The Unrivaled Command of Self-Emptying (2:1–4)
- II. The Key to Self-Emptying is the Incarnation (2:5–8)
 - A. What does it mean that Jesus “emptied Himself?”
 1. His Life was Dominated by a Particular Attitude (2:5)
 - a. “*let the same kind of thinking dominate you as it dominated Christ Jesus.*”
 2. He did not take advantage of His Deity (v. 6)
 - a. “*did not count equality with God something to be used for his own advantage.*”
 3. He Emptied by Taking (vv. 7–8)
 - a. He did not empty himself of deity or any divine attribute. If he did that, He would cease to be God.
 - b. What did he “take to himself?”
 - a. Taking the form of a servant (literally “slave”) (v. 7b)
 - b. Being born in human likeness (v. 8a)
 - c. Chalcedonian Formula: “two natures, without confusion, without change, without division, without separation...”
 - d. The incarnation as a veiling of the divine glory of God behind human flesh
 4. Obedience in Dying *and* Living (v. 8)
 - a. Why does Paul mention Christ’s obedience?
Jesus not only *died for us*, He also *lived for us*
- III. Can I do This? (2:5)
 - A. There are always objections that people make to such a command
 - B. God Has Given Us What He Commands of Us (v. 5)
 - C. Because this mind is in you doesn’t mean there won’t be a fight
- IV. The Counterintuitive Result: They Way UP is DOWN (2:9–11)
 - A. The way up is down
 - B. Losing *yourself* in the *other*=encouragement, comfort, participation in the Spirit, affection, and sympathy (2:1)
 - C. A Word to Deacons
 - D. A Word to all of us