

Christ our Example – Part C
Philippians 2:5-8
Series: Joy and Gratitude in Christ

1. Introduction

- a. We have looked upon this passage of Scripture for the last three weeks. In it, we have seen the example of Christ has set for us as the picture of humility and love for one another.
- b. This example has been given to us by Paul so that we could consider what it truly means to:
 - i. **Philippians 2: 3-4** Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.
⁴Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.
- c. We have seen that Christ has:
 - i. Left His exalted position

1. Descended

- a. No equality with God to Grasp
 - b. Emptied Himself
 - c. Taken the form of a bondservant
 - d. Been made in the likeness of men
 - e. Been found in appearance as a man
- d. Today, we close this portion out by considering the last three descents that Christ underwent in order to serve us.

2. Verse 8B – Descent #6 – He humbled himself

- a. We move from Jesus’ nature and form to His attitude.
- b. This then shows that Jesus was not overcome by circumstances or the politics of the day but that he made a conscious effort to show great humility.
- c. The Greek Verb is **ta-pei-no-ō** – Has the idea of lying low
- d. “The most dramatic and poignant time of Jesus’ self-abasement was during His arrest, trial and crucifixion. He was mocked, falsely accused, spat upon, beaten with fists, scourged, and had part of His beard painfully plucked out. Yet He was never defensive, never bitter, never demanding, never accusing. He refused to assert His rights as God or even as a Human being.” John MacArthur
- e. ““He humbled himself!” “Don’t forget this,” cries Paul to these dear friends of his at Philippi. “Don’t forget this when the slightest

impulse arises to become self-assertive and self-seeking, and so to break the bond of your fellowship with one another!” Pau Rees

- f. Here then is our example. Here we are met with humility that is unparalleled and a humility that we are called to if we are to have the ability of living in unity and harmony.
3. Verse 8C – Descent #7 – becoming obedient to the point of death
 - a. In His descent Jesus was willing to suffer humiliation and degradation unto the point of death
 - b. To the point of death because that was the point in which we could be saved from the wrath that our sins deserve.
 - i. In other words, Jesus doesn't become obedient to the point of death just to die but he does it in order to save us; to serve us.
 - ii. **Matthew 26:39** And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.”
 - iii. **John 10:17** For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. 18 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”
 - iv. **Romans 5:6** For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.
 - c. Are you willing to die to self? Are you willing to die to save your brother or sister?
 4. Verse 8D – Descent #8 – Even death on a cross
 - a. There were a myriad of ways that Jesus could have been killed but none so brutal and utterly vile.
 - i. Christ willingly submits to this barbaric death in order to experience the full wrath that we deserve.
 - b. Crucifixion is the most excruciatingly painful, an shameful form of execution ever conceived.
 - i. It was reserved for slaves, the lowest of criminals, and enemies of the state.
 - c. “A death by crucifixion seems to include all that pain and death can have of the horrible and ghastly—dizziness, cramp, thirst, starvation, sleeplessness, traumatic fever, shame, publicity of shame, long continuance of torment, horror of anticipation, mortification of intended wounds—all intensified just up to the point at which they

can be endured at all, but all stopping just short of the point which could give the sufferer the relief of unconsciousness...The unnatural position made every movement painful; the lacerated veins and crushed tendons throbbed with incessant anguish.” Frederick Farrar

- d. To what extent are you willing to suffer humiliation and degradation? To what extent are you willing to go to live in peace and harmony with the brethren?
5. Benediction –
- a. **2 Corinthians 5: 18-21** All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.