August 17, 2025 Philippians 2:5-11 "Christology"

Principles And Practical Application

Christology, the study of Jesus Christ within Christian theology, encompassing His person (<u>identity</u> and <u>nature</u>) and His work (actions and roles). It explores questions about His divinity, humanity, incarnation, and significance for salvation. Essentially, it is the study of who Jesus is and what He did. Some key topics within Christology include: the Incarnation, the Resurrection, the Atonement for sins, and Messianic Prophecies. Our pericope today constitutes a great statement on Christology. Gleaned from *Robert P. Lightner* Jesus is the supreme example of humility and selfless concern for others. Be like Him.

Jesus is of the very essence (*morphẽ*) of God, and in His incarnation He embraced perfect humanity. His deity is here carefully stressed by the author. The Savior's claim to deity infuriated the Jewish leaders (John 5:18) and caused them to accuse Him of blasphemy (John 10:33).

Though possessing full deity (John 1:14) he did not consider equality with God the Father something to be grasped or held onto. During His earthly ministry He surrendered willingly His absolute right to manifest Himself as God. Jesus became a man in order to die.

Jesus literally became a man. To do this He emptied Himself, yet while being 100% man, He was 100% God all at the same time. He was lowly and humble. He willingly obeyed the Father and others. His humanity was genuine yet He was different from all other humans in that He was sinless.

<u>Incarnation</u> means that Jesus took on a body of flesh and bone. By doing this Jesus chose to temporarily empty Himself. Christ divested Himself of something, what? Being God-He became a servant. This is not a change for Jesus but an addition. God the Son cannot cease to be God. So what happened? He took on the form of a lowly servant and became a man, therefore the Incarnation. By means of humility He entered human life. Notice in v 7 that <u>likeness</u> is not <u>exactness</u>. This stresses similarities but leaves room for differences. The huge difference is a lack/absence of a sin nature. While retaining the essence of God, Jesus was also human. Fully God, fully man at the same time.

One day every knee will bow and all will acknowledge who He is. Paul wrote about this in Romans and Isaiah 45:23 reflects the same. In heaven, no intelligent being whether angel or saint in heaven; no people living on earth, nor Satan, the demons, nor all the lost in hell, in all of God's universe will escape. All will bow willingly due to the reality of their eternity and what got them to where they are.

Lordship of Jesus for the believer is so majestic & honoring and yet today it has become lifeless in the Christian vocabulary. Most, want Jesus as Savior, but as Lord, not so much. Lord of all or not Lord at all.

Application: One day all will CONFESS, Jesus is Lord, meaning Jesus is God. All will willingly confess that Jesus is all He claimed to be. Sadly a large number of these acknowledgers will be eternally too late coming to this reality. Their rebellion will cost them an eternity of separation and punishment in hell. Make sure your name is written in the Lamb's Book Of Life. Today is the day of salvation.