

Epistle to the Philippians 2:5-11

Book structure

- I. Thankful Prayer (1:1-11)
- II. Paul's Missionary Report (1:12-26)
- III. God's Call to Be Holy (1:27-2:30)
- IV. Doctrinal Polemics (3:1-4:1)
- V. Joyful Partnership (4:2-23)

Session Outline

God's Call to be Holy 1:27-2:30

Christian Humility 2:5-11

Paul's exhortation 5

Jesus' example 6-11

As God 6-7a

As Man 7b-8

Jesus' exaltation 9-11

Christian Obedience 2:12-18



P46 mid-2nd century, Phil. 2

Paul's exhortation 5

⁵ [For] This you-be-thinking [~Think] in you, which also in Christ Jesus.

⁵ Keep thinking this among you: that which Messiah Jesus was thinking.

⁵ Keep thinking this about yourselves: that which you think about Messiah Jesus.

Divine humiliation 6-7a

who in the **form** of God existing

not an advantage considered his being equal with God

but nothing he made himself

the **form** of a servant adopting

Human humiliation 7b-8

in likeness of men **becoming**

and in appearance being found as man

he humbled himself

becoming obedient to death

Jesus' example as God 6-7

⁶ Who in form-of-God existing,

Not property he-regarded

The to-be equally to-God, ...

- Real: *morphé*: reality (English 'form' implies fake.)

⁶ Although he was real God,

He did not regard being God's equal,

Something which he had to retain.

Jesus' example as God 6-7a

^{7a} But himself emptied,

Form-of-servant taking,

In similarity-of-humans [~of a human] becoming, ...

- Emptied: ➔ Theological speculation.

^{7a} Instead, he divested himself

By becoming a real servant.

He became human in every way, ...

Divine Essence

- Sovereignty
- Righteousness
- Justice
- Love
- Eternal life
- Omniscience
- Omnipotence
- Omnipresence
- Immutability
- Veracity

Kenosis theories

- Chalcedonian (AD 451). Fully God and fully human, Jesus experienced authentic human limitations.
- Radical (19th cent). Jesus abandoned some divine attributes such as omniscience or omnipotence.
- Example. The prime pattern of self-sacrificing humility.

Jesus' example as Man 7b-8

^{7b} And outwardly found as human,

⁸ He-humbled himself

Becoming obedient until death,
And death of-cross.

^{7b} And having appeared as a human being,

⁸ He humbled himself,

By becoming obedient unto death.
Death on a cross!

Jesus' exaltation 9

⁹ So, also the God him above-upped
And graced to-him the [~a] name
The above every name.

- Name: real personal presence

⁹ Wherefore the God also highly exalted him,
And has given to him the Name
Which is above every other name.

Jesus' exaltation 10

¹⁰ So-that in the name of-Jesus
Every knee bend
of-those-above-sky and of-those-upon land, and
of-those-under-ground.

- Result: *hina* + subjunctive mood = purpose or result clause.

¹⁰ As a result, at Jesus' Name
Every knee must bend to give him honor,
in heaven, on earth, and underground.

Jesus' exaltation 11

¹¹ And every tongue out-same-speak
that Lord (is) Jesus Messiah,
Unto glory of-God of-Father.

- Lord: predicate nominative, definite

¹¹ And everyone must admit verbally
that Jesus Messiah is the Lord.
This glorifies God his Father.

Frankfurt silver inscription Mid-third century. Latin. Discovered 2018 near Frankfurt.

[in nomi?]NE SANCTI TITĪ

AGIOS AGIOS AGIOS

[in] NOMINE IHS XP DEI F(ilii) ... QVONIAM IHS XP OMNES{T} GENVA

FLECTENT CAELESTES TERRESTRES ET INFERI ET OMNIS LINGVA

CONFITEATVR (Lines 1–3, 13–18)

[In the name?] of St. Titus.

Holy, holy, holy!

In the name of Jesus Christ, Son of God! ... That at the name of Jesus Christ every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, and every tongue should confess... *Wikipedia*



Discuss

When you choose to serve others, what is likely to happen to you?

- Powerful people will despise you.
- Others will ignore you as useless.
- Leaders will exploit you to their gain.
- God will teach you insights and skills.
- God will exalt your influence.
- You learn to exalt other humble folk.