



## Repentance Tabernacle Church

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### Be Humble Like Christ!

**Sub-Topic:** This is what humility looks like!

**Scripture:** Philippians 2:5-8

Humble (humility) means recognizing your dependence on God, putting others first, and service willingly, like Jesus did, rather than seeking status: it's a lowliness of mind, not thinking less of yourself but thinking of yourself less, leading to quietness, gratitude, and submission to God, which results in receiving His grace and exaltation.

This passage (Philippians 2:5-8) holds many parallels to the prophecy of the suffering servant in Isaiah 53. Several key characteristics of Jesus Christ, however, are praised in this passage: (1) He has always existed with God; (2) He is equal to God because He is God (John 1:1; Colossians 1:15-19); (3) though He is God, he became man in order to fulfill God's plan of salvation for all people; (4) He did not just pretend to have a man's body—He actually became a man to identify with man's sins; (5) He voluntarily laid aside His divine rights and privileges out of love for His Father; (6) He died on the cross for our sins, so we wouldn't have to face eternal death.

Peter wrote about suffering that comes as a result of doing good (1 Peter 2:21). Christ never sinned, yet He suffered so that we could be set free. Adam and Eve got what they wanted: an intimate knowledge of both good and evil (Genesis 3:5-6). But they got it in a distorted and painful way—by doing evil. We sometimes have the illusion that freedom is doing anything we want. **God says true freedom comes from obedience and knowing what not to do.** To become more like God is humanity's highest goal. It is what we are supposed to do.

Jesus gave himself as a sacrifice for our sins. In Old Testament times, animal sacrifices were continually offered at the Temple. The sacrifices showed the Israelites the seriousness of sin: Blood had to be shed before sins could be pardoned (Leviticus 17:11). But animal blood could not really remove sins (Hebrew 10:4). **The sacrifices could only point to Jesus' sacrifice, which paid the penalty for all sins.**

Jesus' human life was not a script that He passively followed. It was a life He chose freely (John 10:17-18). It was a continuous process of making the will of God the Father His own. He chose to obey, even though obedience led to suffering and death. **Because He obeyed perfectly, even under trial, He can help us obey no matter how difficult obedience seems to be.**

Jesus Christ was humble, willing to give up His rights in order to obey God and serve people. Like Christ, we must serve out of love for God and for others, not out of guilt or fear. We should have an attitude of one that enables us to lay aside our rights in order to serve others. If we say we follow Christ, we must also say we want to live as He lived. We should develop His attitude of humility as we serve, even when we are not likely to get recognition for our efforts. **Are you selfishly clinging to your rights, or are you willing to serve?**

The *Incarnation* was the act of the preexistent Son of God voluntarily assuming a human body and human nature. Without ceasing to be God, He became a human being, the man called Jesus. He did not give up His deity to become human, but He set aside the right to His glory and power. In submission to the Father's will, He limited His power and knowledge. Jesus of Nazareth was subject to place, time, and many other human limitations. What made His humanity unique was his freedom from sin. In His full humanity, Jesus showed us everything about God's character that can be conveyed in human terms.

Crucifixion was the form of capital punishment Romans used for notorious criminals. It was excruciatingly painful and humiliating. Prisoners were nailed or tied to a cross and left to die. Death might not come for several days, and usually came by suffocation when the weight of the weakened body made breathing more and more difficult. Jesus died as one who was cursed (Galatians 3:13). How amazing that the perfect man should die this most shameful death so that we would not have to face eternal punishment.