



**Title:** The Spirit of Christmas    **Date:** December 24, 2023  
**Text:** Philippians 2:1-11

Philippians 2:5-11 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. 8 Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,

**“form”** [morphe] -

**“equality with God”**

John 1:1–2 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God.**

### **“a thing to be grasped”**

What did Jesus choose to give up?

His **personal equality** with God?

His **positional equality** with God?

2 Corinthians 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich.

**7 but emptied Himself**, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.

### **“emptied” [kenoo]**

**NIV** - “made Himself nothing”

**KJV** - “made himself of no reputation”

**NET** - “he gave up His own privileges”

### **What does it mean that He emptied Himself?**

He temporarily surrendered His independent rights and privileges as God.

**1. His Divine** \_\_\_\_\_

**2. His divine** \_\_\_\_\_

John 5:30 "I can do nothing on My own initiative. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

John 6:38 "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

**3. His divine** \_\_\_\_\_

**4. His eternal** \_\_\_\_\_

**5. His** \_\_\_\_\_ **relationship**  
**with His Father**

7 But emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.

**The** \_\_\_\_\_

John 13:3–4 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come forth from

God and was going back to God, 4 got up from supper, and laid aside His garments; and taking a towel, He girded Himself.

### **“likeness of man”**

Virgin birth (Lk 1:30-35)

**“likeness”** [homoiōma]

Hebrews 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet **without sin.**

8 Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross

**“humbled”** Himself and became **“obedient”**

Romans 5:6 For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

1 Peter 2:24 and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.

9 For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,

**“the name”**

10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**“every knee will bow”**

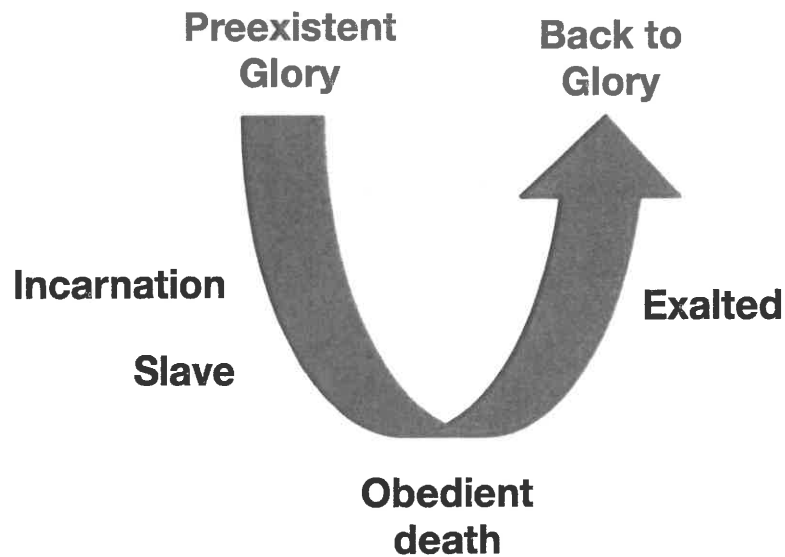
Isaiah 45:22–23 “Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth; For I am God, and there is no other. 23 “I have sworn by Myself, The word has gone forth from My mouth in righteousness And will not turn back, That to Me every knee will bow, every tongue will swear allegiance.

Philippians 2:1 **Therefore** if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion,

Philippians 1:27 Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;

**“worthy of the gospel of Christ”**

**“standing”** together in unity and **striving** together for the gospel



**We are to manifest the same attitude which was in Christ. Jesus**

Selfless, humble \_\_\_\_\_ to one another.

Philippians 2:3-4 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; 4 do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

**“selfishness”**

Proverbs 16:5 Everyone who is proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord; Assuredly, he will not be unpunished.

Proverbs 11:2 When pride comes, then comes dishonor,  
But with the humble is wisdom.

James 4:6–7 But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it  
says, “God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to  
the humble.” 7 Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil  
and he will flee from you.

**“empty conceit”**

but with humility of mind regard one another as more  
important than yourselves;

**“but”** [alla] -

**“more important than ourselves”**

4 do not *merely* look out for your own personal interests, but  
also for the interests of others.

Romans 12:10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly  
love; give preference to one another in honor;

## Discussion Guide

1. After this morning's message, how would you describe what it means that Jesus "emptied" Himself?
2. A common idea runs through the bible that says "the way up is down." How does that apply to the spirit of Christmas?
3. How is the Lord's incarnation a model for the church?
4. What are practical ways we can put the interest of others before our own?

**ANSWERS:** glory, authority, attributes, riches, face-to-face, incarnation, love