

WARM-UP

- Think of a fictional character or a well-known person that you admire. What are the qualities you admire about him or her?
- How do you usually respond when you make a mistake? Recall an instance explaining this.
- Share a moment when you were awarded or recognized for your work. What was the experience like?

WORD *⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. **PHILIPPIANS 2:5-8***

(Read also **PHILIPPIANS 2:9-11.**)

Jesus is divine and human, being fully God and fully man. This is not just a matter of fact—it is essential to our faith. The dual nature of Jesus Christ is a big part of why the redemption of mankind was possible. Paul, the writer of the letter to the Philippians, explains the dual nature of Jesus and how Jesus Himself is the example by which we can live in humility. Let us discover truths about Jesus and how believing in Him can shape our lives.

1 | Jesus is God.

⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in **Christ Jesus**,
⁶**who, though he was in the form of God**, did not count equality
with God a thing to be grasped . . . **PHILIPPIANS 2:5-6**

When Paul wrote this, the Philippians were facing conflicts and challenges among the community. So he encouraged them to remember who Jesus is and to follow His example. Jesus is one person with two natures. Jesus is God and equal to God the Father. He is not just ‘part’ God—He is fully God, uncreated and existed before time (John 1:1). In fact, it is through Him that all things were created (Colossians 1:16). How does Hebrews 1:10–12 describe Jesus’ divinity?

2 | Jesus became man.

. . . ⁷but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. **PHILIPPIANS 2:7-8**

While Jesus is equal with God, He *did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped* or held on to. He humbled Himself by living on earth as a man, who like us was capable of experiencing all the limitations of being human. But unlike other humans, Jesus lived the way we should have lived—a perfect, sinless life in obedience to God the Father and in service of others. Jesus became the perfect sacrifice to atone for the sins of mankind. How can you follow Jesus’ example of service in your daily life?

3 | Jesus is exalted.

⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. **PHILIPPIANS 2:9-11**

In His humility and obedience to die on the cross, Jesus was exalted. God exalted Him in the heavens and the earth. By serving others and living in humility, Jesus was given glory and honor by God the Father. Because of what Jesus has done and how the Father exalted Him, He deserves all our obedience, worship, and adoration. How will this truth affect the way you live?

As God, Jesus humbled Himself by serving others. As humans, we tend to seek glory and honor for ourselves. But unlike us, Jesus came to serve. The apostle Paul encourages us to *do nothing from selfish ambition* (Philippians 2:3) and instead to follow the humble example of Jesus' life, giving glory to the Father. We can respond in humility by serving others, too.

APPLICATION

- Ask God to reveal an area in your life where you seek glory and honor for yourself. Pray that God would help you surrender this area to Him. Share this with a trusted friend or mentor, as you are comfortable.
- This week, what is one thing you can start doing to serve others more?
- Through your words and actions, how can you demonstrate humility in your church community?

