



# PHILIPPIANS

**BASICS FOR BELIEVERS**

Lesson Three:  
**Focus on the Cross (Part 2)**  
*Philippians 2:5 – 2:11*

**The Christological Foundation (vv. 5-7)**  
**The Incarnate Obedience (v. 8)**  
**The Exaltation and Universal Lordship (vv. 9-11)**

# Quick review

- Identity: Believers are saints set apart in Christ
- Foundation: Christian living flows from grace, not legalism
- Growth: God works in us to will and to act
- Marks of Maturity: humility, joy, gratitude, unity
- Focus: Gospel-centered relationships and partnership
- Result: A life that visibly reflects Christ

## The Christological Foundation (vv. 5-7)

- Paul begins with an ethical command: adopt the mind of Christ.
- Humility is not mere pragmatism; it is conformity to the incarnate Son.
- Christ was truly equal with God, yet he willingly took the form of a servant.
- His self-emptying was not subtraction of deity, but the taking of true humanity.

# The Meaning of Self-Emptying

- Kenosis does not mean Christ ceased to be God.
- The Son veiled divine glory in the weakness of true human servanthood.
- He did not grasp at status, but gave himself for the good of others.
- This becomes the pattern for Christian humility and service.

## The Incarnate Obedience (v. 8)

- Christ's descent reaches its lowest point in death on a cross.
- The cross was shameful, cursed, public, and degrading.
- His death was voluntary, not accidental or coerced.
- The cross is the climax of a life of obedience to the Father.

## **What the Cross Shows Us**

- The depth of Christ's humiliation.
- The perfection of Christ's obedience.
- The cost of redemption for his people.
- The pattern of self-denial for all who follow him.

# The Exaltation and Universal Lordship (vv. 9-11)

- The Father highly exalted the Son and gave him the name above every name.
- The movement is from humiliation to vindication.
- Every knee will bow in heaven, on earth, and under the earth.
- Every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

## “Jesus Christ Is Lord”

- Paul echoes Isaiah 45 and applies Yahweh-language to Jesus.
- This confession is not merely about authority; it is an ascription of deity.
- The Son is honored, and the Father is glorified.
- The passage displays distinction of persons with unity of divine glory.

## Implications for Believers

- The cross is the supreme standard for Christian behavior.
- Humility, service, and self-denial are not optional extras.
- Philippians 2 teaches universal confession, not universal salvation.
- Believers should expect the pattern of suffering before vindication.

# Conclusion

- Where am I grasping for status instead of serving like Christ?
- How does the cross reshape the way I treat other believers?
- What does it look like to confess Jesus as Lord in ordinary life?
- Am I bowing gladly to Christ now?
- Philippians 2:5-11 moves from Christ's deity, to humiliation, to obedience, to exaltation, and then to the believer's calling.
- The church is summoned to think, live, suffer, and serve in light of the crucified and exalted Lord Jesus Christ.

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