

HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD!

The Servant Who Came

Philippians 2:5–8



LET'S BEGIN HERE

The Bible makes it clear that Jesus came to earth to seek and to save those lost in their sin (Luke 19:10). But why did Jesus do this? Why did Jesus leave His glorious throne in heaven to mingle among sinful humanity and eventually die? Does the Bible make this equally clear? Absolutely. Jesus left His heavenly throne because of His great love for us and because He is a humble servant.



LET'S DIG DEEPER

1. Christlikeness in One Word (Mark 10:45)

Servant is the one-word description of being like Christ — the willingness to give up our will for another's good in order to accomplish what's best.

- Identifying the term: *servant*

- Amplifying its meaning

2. Christ's Humility in Paul's Words (Philippians 2:5–8)

Paul commanded us to have the same mind-set as Jesus had (2:5):

- Before His incarnation

- In His coming as a servant

- On the cross as a sacrifice



Quotable

*When you are a
humble servant,
you're willing
to give up your
will for another's
greater good.*

— Charles R. Swindoll



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DIGGING DEEPER

The Hymn of the Kenosis

Philippians 2:6–11 is an early Christian hymn, which has become commonly known as the *Kenosis*, from the Greek verb, *kenoo*, translated as “emptied” (Philippians 2:7). Though ample evidence suggests that Paul was the hymn writer, scholars continue to disagree on the authorship of this hymn. Some argue that Paul incorporated the hymn from “a Gentile contemporary . . . who puts into poetic form his praise to Christ in a way similar to his pre-Christian pagan practice of lauding divine heroes.”¹ Regardless of whether or not Paul was the author, the truths expressed in the hymn are both inspiring and arresting. In fact, the hymn skillfully captures an early song of praise to the preexistent, earthly, and exalted Christ. Its beauty and simplicity rival anything David wrote in the Psalms and serves as a fitting tribute to our glorious Lord, Jesus Christ!

3. Christ’s Death, Proclaimed without Words (1 Corinthians 11:24–26)

- Two essential symbols: the bread and the wine

- Two crucial questions: “Am I clean?” and if not, “Why not?”



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LET'S LIVE IT

No one comes to Christ without first humbling himself or herself and admitting his or her need for a Savior; no one continues in Christ without following Christ's example of humble servitude. So whether we look upon the cross or remember Christ in the bread and wine, we are reminded of divine love, divine grace, and divine humility—a humility that wrings from our mouths the heartfelt confession that “Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Philippians 2:11).

The bread and wine represent the humility of Christ's death, His obedience “to the point of death, even death on a cross” (Philippians 2:8), but what of His resurrection? What is implied in Luke 22:18?

ENDNOTE

1. Donald Guthrie, *New Testament Introduction* (Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity, 1970), 540.



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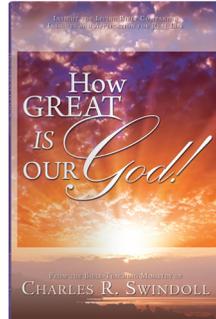
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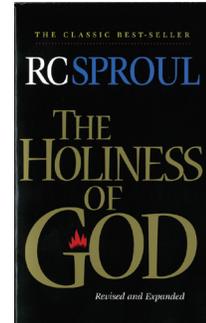
Tools for Digging Deeper



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