

## THE EXAMPLE

(Philippians 2:5-11—Part 1)

In Philippians 2:1-4, Paul encouraged unselfish humility as a means of building community. Now he gives an example...

	<i><sup>5</sup>Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,</i>	
	<i><sup>6</sup>who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,</i>	
Part 1	<i><sup>7</sup>but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.</i>	The humiliation of Jesus
	<i><sup>8</sup>Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.</i>	

	<i><sup>9</sup>For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,</i>	
Part 2	<i><sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth,</i>	The exaltation of Jesus
	<i><sup>11</sup>and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Phil 2:5-11, NAS)</i>	

### JESUS IS BOTH PEERLESS EXAMPLE AND SUPREME RULER

- **Jesus was a peerless example of OBEDIENT HUMILITY**

*<sup>5</sup>Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus*

- **He was God, but didn't insist on acting like it**

*<sup>6</sup>who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,*

- **He laid aside his God-privileges and became a human servant**

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

- **He lived humbly and died ingloriously, obedient to the end**

*<sup>8</sup>Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.*

The hymn begins by describing Christ before the incarnation—he possessed the nature of God and was equal with God. But contrary to what one might expect, the true nature of God is not to grasp or get or selfishly to hold on to things for personal advantage but to give them up for the enrichment of all. This is demonstrated by Christ, who, because he shared the nature of God, did not hold firm to the high position that was his by right but rather stepped down from it. That is to say, he deliberately placed himself in the humblest of positions: he who was in the form of God became a human being, fully human, a slave even, so that he might serve others. In the self-humbling act of the incarnation, God became a human being and thus set himself wholly to seek the advantage and promote the welfare of his fellows. Christ's intent was never to fight for his own honor, right, and credit, but through self-surrender, self-renunciation, and self-sacrifice to strive for the honor, right, and credit of others. To obey, as a slave must obey, was his delight. So radical was his obedience that he did not withdraw it even when he was faced with death—the most cruel of all deaths, death by crucifixion. He must somehow have known, though, that his death was not his alone, but an act that worked for the good of others. (Hawthorne and Martin, *Word Biblical Commentary*)

Consequently, God exalted him.... But that's **next week**, March 31, Part 2 from Philippians 2:9-11...