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HUMBLE KING

About 400 years after Christ, St. Augustine was asked about the central principles of the Christian life. His reply: 1) humility, 2) humility, 3) humility. The Apostle Paul puts it this way in Philippians 2:3, **"Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others."**

Humility is not so much putting yourself lower as it is raising up others. Aren't you impressed with people who seem genuinely humble when you know they really should be more exalted than they seem? The greatest example in history is Jesus Christ. What Paul writes in verses 5-11 could be an ancient hymn. It begins like this: **"Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus."**

Being **"in Christ"** is how Scripture describes any person who has put their personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord & Savior. Other passages also declare that such believers have the "mind of Christ" - and here Paul describes the magnanimity, the generous humility of this mind. **"Who, though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men."**

There is only one God, the eternal Creator and sovereign ruler of the universe. He is the God of the Bible, which reveals that God consists of three persons in one godhead. This "trinity," one God in three persons, is often depicted as the three points of an equilateral triangle. The Father is God, but is not the Son or the Holy Spirit. The Son is God, but is not the Father or the Spirit. The Holy Spirit is God, but is not the Father or the Son. One God, three persons, the unique Triune God of the Bible.

Before Jesus came to earth as the Christmas child, He had always existed as God, both in His essence and in His function, as the second person of the Triune Godhead. As the Son of God, He has always acted in perfect unity in concert with the corporate will of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. But His equality in the godhead was not something to exploit for His own advantage. Rather, He willingly laid aside His divine rights, in order to take the form of a servant-slave. He who was **SOMEbody** became **NObody**.

Christ did not exchange His actual identity and essence. His humility was not subtraction, but rather addition. While He never ceased to be fully divine, He also took on full humanity: "Emmanuel, God with us," the mystery of God come-in-the-flesh. In Mark 10:45 Jesus said **"For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and to give His life a ransom for many."** In Mark 14:36 He prayed to the Father, **"Not what I will but what You will."** Jesus, the God-man, is the perfect servant-leader.

Paul continues in verse 8 **"And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."** Death is the wages of sin, the destiny of fallen sinful humanity, the punishment for rebellious disobedience against the perfection of God. Death is impossible for deity. And the cross? It was for the humiliation of the worst criminals.

1 Peter 2:24 says, **"He himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed."** 2 Corinthians 5:21 explains, **"For our sake God made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God."**

These Scriptures tell us what Jesus Christ did -- and why. No one in history has even been more exalted than Jesus Christ. No one in history has ever been more humble than Jesus Christ. What did He do? He paid the penalty for your sins. Why did He do it? He "looked to the interests of others." And what difference does it make for you? Only you can answer.

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