

How God Becoming Man Changes Everything

1. Jesus Humbled Himself To The Point Of Death

Philippians 2:5-11

Who was Jesus before he was born? (v.6)

Paul says he was in the form of God — having equality with God.

Some may struggle with the idea of there being a God. But does it make sense to think that everything that exists came about randomly? Doesn't it make more sense to think it came about purposefully — by a purposeful being — by God?

Paul says Jesus was in the form of God — which means that like God he has always existed, has infinite power, created everything. Doesn't that mean Jesus *is* God?

Yes. In the next phrase, Paul says Jesus was equal to God.

So from eternity past, Jesus has always existed with no beginning, has authority over everything, has power to create everything, has perfect knowledge, is full of joy in the fellowship of the Trinity.

What did Jesus do? (v.7)

He emptied himself — poured himself out for our sakes.

He took the form of a servant — giving up all his rights, powers, and privileges.

He was born in the likeness of men — he never stopped being God, but also became man.

Why did Jesus become a man? (v.8)

He became a man, so he could die. As God, he could not die. To die, he had to become a man.

He needed to die, because God in his justice had to punish our sin.

But God loves us, and came up with a way to forgive us, and still justly punish our sin.

God sent Jesus to be punished on the Cross in our place.

What did God the Father do? (vv.9-11)

Highly exalted him — raised him from the dead.

Gave him the name above every name: "Lord"

So every knee would bow before Jesus.

So every tongue would confess Jesus.

So — see who Jesus is. See what he has done.

And bow your knee before him.

And confess him as Lord.



HOME GROUP DISCUSSION OF SUNDAY'S TEACHING

(Sometimes in our home groups we talk about Sunday's teaching, so we can work together on responding to God's Word — asking questions, sharing insights, talking together.)

What questions did Sunday's teaching raise in your mind?

Do you find it persuasive to think that the universe either came about randomly, or purposefully? And that purposefully makes more sense? Why or why not?

Do you agree that before he was born Jesus had always been God — with no beginning? Why or why not?

Do you agree that Jesus becoming a man was infinitely more lowering than you becoming an ant? Why or why not?

Can you imagine being willing to become an ant, and be killed by ants you created, so these rebellious ants could be forgiven?

Are you bending the knee before Jesus Christ? In what areas are you? In what areas are you not?

Are you confessing Jesus as Lord? To whom? How? When?

What is the Holy Spirit stirring in your heart through this passage?

