

What Did It Mean for Jesus to Become a Man?

Philippians 2:5-7

Introduction

God has created everything in the universe for the purpose of displaying the glory of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

What that means is that there is nothing more important than to learn about, trust, love, and worship Jesus Christ.

And our next passage in Philippians is one of the most important passages to understand about Jesus Christ.

What was true of Jesus before he was born? (vv.5-6)

Paul says Jesus was in the form of God, which means he had the same substance and nature as God. Paul also says Jesus had equality with God, which means he has the same essential attributes as God.

So Jesus was fully God. This is also taught in John 5:18 and Romans 9:5.

So this means —

- Jesus has always been from eternity past.
- Jesus is sovereign over everything.
- Jesus has perfect knowledge.
- Jesus has infinite power.
- Jesus has perfect love and joy in the Fellowship of the Trinity.

What did it mean for Jesus to become a man? (vv.6-7)

Jesus loved us so much, that he was willing to become a man in order to save us from our sins.

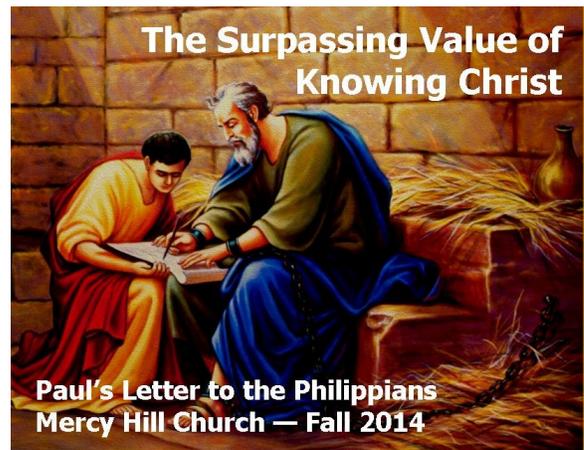
Jesus did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, which means he did not let the powers and privileges he had as God keep him from becoming a man. So he made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. This means he took on human nature (without sin), and human flesh.

He never stopped being God. But to become a man he had to lay aside the powers and privileges he had as God. So he was born as a baby, needed to increase in wisdom, got tired, became hungry, and suffer terrible physical pain and death.

What does this mean for us?

Nothing is more worthy, valuable, or important than Jesus Christ.

So love him, trust him, and live for him.



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.)

Based on what you desire and spend your time on, what is most important to you?

How much importance has Jesus' glory had to you?

How does it affect you think that Jesus was willing to lay aside his powers and privileges as God, and become a man, to save you from your sin?

What questions does this raise?

Does it make sense to you that Jesus could lay aside his divine powers and privileges, and you continue to be God? Why or why not?

Does it make sense that Jesus had to become a man, because only the death of the God-man could pay for infinite sin? Why or why not?

What can you do to nurture stronger love for Christ's glory? When could you do that?

What could you do this coming week to live for Christ's glory in your family, workplace, neighborhood?

Take time to pray for each other

