

# Step 6: "Obedience until Death"

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## Philippians 2:8-9

**7 but made Himself:** (you have to choose to step down, no one can make you!)

(1) of no reputation,

(2) taking the form of a bondservant,

(3) coming in the likeness of men.

8 And being

(4) found in appearance as a man,

(5) He humbled Himself and became

**(6) obedient to death,**

(7) even the death of the cross.

We begin this morning in very familiar territory:

### John 3:16

16 For in this way God loved the world,  
so that he gave his one and only Son,  
in order that everyone who believes in him will not perish,  
but will have eternal life.

- **Spurgeon "on humbled Himself":** Our text does not speak so much of the humiliation of Christ in becoming man, as of His humiliation after He took upon Himself our nature. He had not descended low enough yet, though He had come down all the way from the Godhead to our manhood. What will not Christ do for us who have been given to Him by His Father?  
**There is no measure to His love; you cannot comprehend His grace.  
Oh, how we ought to love Him, and serve Him!**

The lower He stoops to save us, the higher we ought to lift Him in our adoring reverence. Blessed be His name, He stoops, and stoops, and stoops, and, when He reaches our level, and becomes man, He still stoops, and stoops, and stoops lower and deeper yet....

THUS – His struggle in Gethsemane

### 2 Corinthians 5:21

21 He made the one who did not know sin to be sin on our behalf,  
in order that we could become the righteousness of God in him.

**To die for someone else**

>A measure of commitment

>A measure of devotion

>A measure of love

- Husbands are commanded to love their wives in this manner:

**Ephesians 5:25-27.** (NLT)

**25** For husbands, **this means love your wives,** just as Christ loved the church.

**He gave up his life for her**

**26** to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God's word.

**27** He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault. <sup>1</sup>

- **How many husbands would really consider dying for their wife?**

- "Well, after prayer I suppose?"

- **What if:**

- She was an adulterer?
- A floozy drunk?
- Had children in adultery?
- Hated Christ and you, became a devout atheist?
- Gambled your life savings away at Chumash?

- **Hosea:**

**Hosea 3:1-3**

**1** And Yahweh said to me again,

**"Go, love a woman who has a lover and is committing adultery,** just like the love of Yahweh for the children of Israel, but they are turning to other gods and love raisin cakes."

**2** So I bought her for fifteen shekels of silver and a homer of barely and a measure of wine. (normal price: 30 shekels of silver)

**3** And I said to her,

"You must remain as mine for many days, and you will not play the whore; you will not belong to a man, and I will belong to you."

**BUT** – before you think this is just for married couples:

<sup>1</sup> Tyndale House Publishers, *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2013), Eph 5:25–27.

## Romans 5:6–10

**6** For while we were still helpless,

yet at the proper time Christ died for the ungodly.

**7** For only rarely will someone die on behalf of a righteous person (for on behalf of a good person possibly someone might even dare to die),

**8** but God demonstrates his own love for us,

**in that while we were still sinners,**

Christ died for us.

**9** Therefore, by much more,

because we have been declared righteous now by his blood, we will be saved through him from the wrath.

**10** For if, **while we were enemies,**

we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son,

by much more, having been reconciled, we will be saved by his life.

**8** And

**(4)** being found in appearance as a man,

**(5)** He humbled Himself and

**(6)** **became obedient to death,**

**(7)** even the death of the cross.

- The act of self-humbling and obedience sums up the whole course of Christ's life on earth. *TEV* attempts to make this fact explicit by rendering **walked the path of obedience all the way to death.** <sup>2</sup>

- **Obedient** (ὕπηκοος [*hupēkoos*]). **Old adjective, “giving ear to”.** <sup>3</sup>

## Psalm 40:6–8

**6** Sacrifice and offering You did not desire;

**My ears You have opened.**

Burnt offering and sin offering

You did not require.

**7** Then I said, “Behold, I come;

In the scroll of the book it is written of me.

**8** **I delight to do Your will, O my God,**

**And Your law is within my heart.”**

<sup>2</sup> I-Jin Loh and Eugene Albert Nida, *A Handbook on Paul's Letter to the Philippians*, UBS Handbook Series, 61 (New York: United Bible Societies, 1995).

<sup>3</sup> A.T. Robertson, *Word Pictures in the New Testament*, Php 2:8 (Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1933).

- **The law of God –**
  - **In my ears**
  - **In my heart**

**Isaiah 50:5–6**

**5 The Lord God has opened My ear; (called me to obedience)**

And I was not rebellious,  
Nor did I turn away.

**6** I gave My back to those who struck Me,  
And My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard;  
I did not hide My face from shame and spitting.

**Mark 10:45** For even the Son of Man did not come to be served,  
**but to serve,**  
and to give His life a ransom for many.”

**Hebrews 12:2** looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith,  
**who for the joy that was set before Him**  
**endured the cross,**  
despising the shame,  
and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

**Matthew 26:39** He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed,  
saying, “O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless,  
not as I will, but as You will.”

**Matthew 26:42** **Again, a second time,**  
He went away and prayed,  
saying, “O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it,  
Your will be done.”

**John 4:34** Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me,  
and to finish His work.

**John 15:10** If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, **just**  
**as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love.**

- Christ humbled himself “by becoming” obedient even to the extent of death; in other words, “obedient to death” defines the measure of Christ’s humbling himself. <sup>4</sup>

### What should you do this morning?

- **Repent** – for not applying the same grace given to you – to others!
- **Seek** – in humble heart seek out those you have acted self-righteous with – buy them back with your love.
- **Commit** – commit yourself to acting in a compassionate, loving manner even to the most un-loveable.

<sup>4</sup> I-Jin Loh and Eugene Albert Nida, *A Handbook on Paul’s Letter to the Philippians*, UBS Handbook Series, 61 (New York: United Bible Societies, 1995).