

Philippians 2:5-6 "7 Steps Down"

People will always seek to climb higher and higher in society

- On the backs of others is often how fame is achieved.
- Paul understood what lies in our deceitful hearts:

Philippians 2:3-4

3 Let nothing be done through **selfish ambition or conceit**, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.

4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

- Lucifer knew that he wanted the highest seat

Isaiah 14:13-16 (The 5 "I Wills")

13 For you have said in your heart:

'I will ascend into heaven,

I will exalt my throne above the stars of God;

I will also sit on the mount of the congregation

On the farthest sides of the north;

14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds,

I will be like the Most High.'

15 Yet you shall be brought down to Hell,

To the lowest depths of the Pit.

16 "Those who see you will stare at you,

And consider you,

and they will say:

'Is this the man who made the earth tremble,

Who shook kingdoms,

Not Jesus!

- **BOICE:** "These verses have been called the great parabola of Scripture, for they picture the descent of the Lord Jesus Christ from the highest position in the universe down to his death on the cross, and then carry the mind of the reader up again to see him seated once more on the throne of his glory before which every knee shall bow. "I will go up ... up ... up," said Satan. "You will be cast down to hell," God answered. "I will go down to the cross," said Jesus. "You will be given the name that is above every name," said God our heavenly Father." ¹

¹ James Montgomery Boice, *Philippians: An Expository Commentary* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2000), 109.

The great ozymandius

<https://youtu.be/sPISH6n37ts>

Philippians 2:5-8 – 7 steps down

5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,

6 who, being in the form of God,

did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,

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

(1) no reputation,

(2) taking the form of a bondservant, and

(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 the point of death,

(7) even the death of the cross.

Seven Steps Down:

1. Emptied Himself of all reputation
2. Making Himself a slave to all mankind
3. In the likeness of men
4. In appearance of a man
5. He humbled Himself
6. Obedient until death
7. A cursed death upon a cross.

5 Let this **mind** be in you,
which was also in Christ Jesus:

- **Have this mind in you** (toute phroneite en humin).
"Keep on thinking this in you which was also in Christ Jesus"
 - What is that? **Humility**.
 - Paul presents Jesus as the supreme example of humility. He urges humility on the Philippians as the only way to secure unity. (RWP)
- **D. L. Moody:** "Dr. Bonar once said that he could tell when a Christian was growing. In proportion to his growth in grace he would elevate his Master, **talk less of what he himself was doing, and become smaller and smaller in his own esteem,**

until, like the morning star, he faded away before the rising sun.” —D. L. Moody ²

C.H. Spurgeon: “Men do not quarrel when their ambitions have come to an end. When each one is willing to be least, when everyone desires to place his fellows higher than himself, there is an end to party spirit; schisms and divisions are all passed away.” ³

- He sets before them a most perfect example of all modesty and sweet conduct, Christ Jesus, whom we ought to follow with all our might: who abased himself so much for our sakes, although he is above all, that he took upon himself the form of a servant, that is, our flesh, willingly subject to all weaknesses, even to the death of the cross.

Ephesians 5:2 And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and **hath given himself** for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savor.

1Peter 2:21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, **leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:**

1Peter 4:1 Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, **arm yourselves likewise with the same mind:** for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin;

1John 2:6 He that saith he abideth in him **ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.**

- Jesus made **a deliberate decision** to humble Himself before His Father, and also before His disciples. One of which had decided to betray Him.

6 who, being in **the form of God,** did not consider it robbery to be **equal with God,**
“the form of God”

² Paul Lee Tan, *Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations: Signs of the Times* (Garland, TX: Bible Communications, Inc., 1996).

³ Charles H. Spurgeon, *Spurgeon's Sermons: Volume 38*, electronic ed. (Albany, OR: Ages Software, 1998).

- **Morphē** is the essential form which never alters; **Schēma** is the outward form which changes from time to time and from circumstance to circumstance. ⁴
 - For instance, the *morphē* of any human being is humanity and this never changes; but his *schēma* is continually changing.
 - A baby, a child, a boy, a youth, a man of middle age, an old man always have the *morphē* of humanity, but the outward *schēma* changes all the time. ⁵
- **His humanity was as real as his deity.**
 - It was a likeness, but a real likeness (Kennedy), no mere phantom humanity as the Docetic Gnostics held. ⁶

NKJV: “he did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, ⁷

NLT: “he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to.”⁸

NIV: “did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;” ⁹

- **“Equal”**

John 5:18 Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, **but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.**

Jesus took no advantage of being God when:

- Entered his mother’s womb as a growing embryo
- Though He knew every language known – spoke as a baby and child
- Learned to walk before he walked on water
- Learned the carpenter’s trade when He had previously built the Galaxies
- Was **arrested** by the very men he had loved and breathed life into

Matthew 26:51-54

⁴ *The Letters to the Philippians, Colossians, and Thessalonians*, ed. William Barclay, electronic ed., The Daily Study Bible Series, 35 (Philadelphia: The Westminster John Knox Press, 1975).

⁵ *The Letters to the Philippians, Colossians, and Thessalonians*, ed. William Barclay, electronic ed., The Daily Study Bible Series, 35-36 (Philadelphia: The Westminster John Knox Press, 1975).

⁶ A.T. Robertson, *Word Pictures in the New Testament*, Php 2:7 (Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1933).

⁷ *The New King James Version* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1982), Php 2:6.

⁸ Tyndale House Publishers, *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2015), Php 2:6.

⁹ *The New International Version* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), Php 2:6.

51 But one of the men with Jesus pulled out his sword and struck the high priest's slave, slashing off his ear.

52 "Put away your sword," Jesus told him. "Those who use the sword will die by the sword."

53 Don't you realize that I could ask my Father for thousands of angels to protect us, and he would send them instantly?

54 But if I did, how would the Scriptures be fulfilled that describe what must happen now?" 10

- Jesus was surely God:

Colossians 2:9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily;

John 10:30 I and My Father are one."

John 14:9 ... **He who has seen Me has seen the Father;**

- **J.I. Packer:** "For the Son of God to empty himself and become poor meant a laying aside of glory; a voluntary restraint of power; an acceptance of hardship, isolation, ill-treatment, malice, and misunderstanding; finally, a death that involved such agony— spiritual even more than physical— that his mind nearly broke under the prospect of it. It meant love to the uttermost for unlovely men. . . . It is our shame and disgrace today that so many Christians— I will be more specific: so many of the soundest and most orthodox Christians— go through this world in the spirit of the priest and the Levite in our Lord's parable, seeing human needs all around them, but (after a pious wish, and perhaps a prayer, that God might meet those needs) averting their eyes and passing by on the other side. That is not the Christmas spirit. But it is the spirit of some Christians— alas, they are many— whose ambition in life seems limited to building a nice middle-class Christian home, and making nice middle-class Christian friends, and bringing up their children in nice middle-class Christian ways, and who leave the marginalized of the community, Christian and non-Christian, to get on as best they can. The Christmas spirit does not shine out in the Christian snob. For the Christmas spirit is the spirit of those who, like their Master, live their whole lives on the principle of making themselves poor— spending and being spent— to enrich their fellow humans, giving time, trouble, care and concern, to do

good to others— and not just their own friends— in whatever way there seems need.” ¹¹

¹¹ Keller, Timothy. *Hidden Christmas: The Surprising Truth Behind the Birth of Christ* (pp. 49-50). Penguin Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.