**He Emptied Himself**

*Philippians 2:7 (NASB)*

**Introduction**

1. The text of **Philippians 2:7** has been the seat of much controversy.
2. ***“emptied Himself”*** – *kenoō*; to make empty, i.e. (figuratively) to abase, neutralize.
3. People make the mistake when the ask the question, “OF WHAT did Christ empty Himself?”
   1. **The text does not say Christ emptied Himself OF anything.**
   2. It simply says that Christ “emptied Himself.”
   3. **If there is an object to the word “emptied,” it can only be “himself.”**
   4. What was emptied? “Himself” – He “emptied Himself.”
4. **Mistakes are made when people begin to reason with themselves things which are to wonderful for us to comprehend.**
   1. How could Jesus be both God and man?
   2. How could Jesus be tempted as we are, but remain God?
   3. **It must be that He “emptied Himself” OF His divine nature? – This is presumptuous, and fails to recognize the principles established about Christ elsewhere in scripture.**
   4. ***“The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us” (Deuteronomy 29:29* – Sometimes we must leave it at this.)**
5. We must not read into the text what is not there. The context is clear concerning the meaning of ***“emptied Himself.”***
6. What Must First Be Understood
7. Jesus is God
   1. **Acts 8:34-37** – Philip preached ***“Jesus”*** to the Ethiopian Eunuch.
      1. What was NECESSARY for him to believe after being given the information from Philip? – ***“Jesus Christ is the Son of God” (v. 37b).***
      2. ***“IF you believe”*** – The Eunuch’s answer shows us what he had to believe.
      3. Jesus – the name given the Son of God come in the flesh – **cf. Matthew 1:21** (Angel to Joseph concerning Mary’s pregnancy). (The human child’s name which is in your wife’s womb is to be given the name ***“Jesus.”)***
   2. **John 5:16-18** – To be called ***“the Son of God”*** is tantamount to calling yourself God – what the Pharisees thought.
      1. This was true.
      2. **Because this was true, it was not wrong for Jesus to claim – it was necessary for men to believe.**
   3. **John 1:1-3, 14** – The word was and is God – THAT word became flesh.
      1. We must not reason ourselves out of the truth, but take God’s word for what it says.
      2. **THAT SAME Word, was STILL THAT WORD when He became FLESH.**
      3. **His Glory was the same as the Father’s glory. 🡪**
   4. **John 14:8-11** – Jesus reveals the Father in His words and works (miracles) in His ministry. He and the Father are one.
   5. **John 20:30-31** – This is the whole reason the gospel of John is written!
8. Jesus is Man
   1. **This is no more a mystery than is the FACT of His deity. The scripture does not say He merely LOOKED LIKE a man, but that He was in FACT a man.**
   2. This is also ESSENTIAL in our belief for salvation 🡪
   3. **1 John 4:1-3** – Those who are ANTI-Christ are those who do not confess His humanity.
   4. **2 John 7-8** – There was a danger of John’s audience losing ***“those things we worked for”*** by believing the false doctrine that Christ was not human.
   5. **Luke 24:36-43** – Jesus to the disciples after those on the road to Emmaus saw Him – **He allowed them to handle Him, and He performed the physical act of eating to show it was really Him – IN THE FLESH.**
   6. **1 John 1:1-4 –** John spoke of this experience with Jesus – He was there before them and they were able to touch Him and handle Him – HE WAS HUMAN.
9. Paul’s Instructions in Philippians 2
10. Maintain Unity
    1. **1:27-30** – They are appointed to “striving together for the faith of the gospel.”
       1. There was opposition to the church, and to the faith.
       2. They were to stand up against this opposition.
       3. **This would require a unity among them – a house divided cannot stand.**
    2. **2:1-2** – This unity would be accomplished as they were of one mind, of one love.
       1. This mindset of oneness was necessary.
       2. **This mindset of oneness would be accomplished in humility. 🡪**
11. By Being Selfless and Humble
    1. **2:3-4** – Christians are to have a humble estimation of themselves, and an exalted estimation of each other. They are not to be interested in self, but in others.
    2. **When all have this mindset, and are manifesting such in action, the unity in the congregation is maintained, and all are strengthened in their stand for the gospel.**
12. ***To this end Jesus is given as the supreme example 🡪***
13. He Emptied Himself
14. The Example of Christ’s Mindset
    1. **2:5** – This is the exhortation which connects with the first 4 verses.
    2. Have the same mind, mindset, frame of mind, estimation of self, AS DID CHRIST.
    3. **The context considers Christ’s frame of mind 🡪**
15. Christ’s Mindset Exhibited in Action
    1. **(v. 6)** – being in the glorious form of God was not something to grasp at.
       1. He did not seek to hang on to that form.
       2. It was His prerogative, and He was and is God, but He was willing to leave the glories of heaven FIT FOR THE DIVINE ONE.
       3. ***“being”*** – **continuous** – Christ not only was God, but continued to be God.
       4. **However, He did not seek any profit or gain from this. HE LOOKED TO THE NEEDS OF OTHERS.**
    2. **(v. 7)** – ***“emptied Himself” (NASB)***
       1. The Greek word means emptied, but the NKJV renders the better translation contextually.
       2. ***“made Himself of no reputation”*** – Jesus did not use His deity to exalt self, but assumed a lower position – that of a servant – that of a man.
       3. **He made Himself nothing when compared to who He really is in all His glory.**
          1. ***“He has no form or comeliness; and when we see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him” (Isaiah 53:2).***
          2. ***“He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light” (Matthew 17:2).***
    3. **(v. 8)** – His manifestation as a servant was ultimately consummated in His shameful death – EVEN the death of the cross.
16. **Lesson – Jesus, THE SON OF GOD, was selfless, and self-humbled for the profit of OTHERS, and we ought to have the same mindset.**
17. ***“If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet” (John 13:14).***

**Conclusion**

1. Jesus did not empty Himself of His deity – He remained God.
2. He did not empty Himself OF anything – He emptied Himself – made Himself of no reputation.
3. **The Son of God did not think of Himself as too good to serve, but performed the greatest act of servitude ever known.**
4. We ought to have the same mindset and willingness.