

Major Event: His Life

Lesson 4: Kenosis

Scripture: Philippians 2:5-8

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

The Kenosis of Christ:

Philippians 2:5 - Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,

Philippians 2:6 - who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,

Philippians 2:7 - **but emptied Himself**, by taking the form of a bond-servant, and by being made in the likeness of men.

Philippians 2:8 - Although being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

The doctrine gets its name because of the Greek verb translated “emptied”- **κενόω (kenóō)** - to empty, to render void or of no effect, to make of no reputation.

As eternal God, Jesus emptied Himself by acquiring true humanity (Jesus Christ gained human attributes, but never lost any divine attributes; it was NOT a subtraction of deity, but an addition of humanity). Note that it was voluntary (He emptied **Himself**). Out of His great love for us, Jesus emptied Himself and humbled Himself by becoming true humanity and dying on the cross for our sins.

Suggested Attributes and Characteristics of God:

Humility - Christ as eternal God was willing to humble Himself by taking on humanity and even dying for the sins of sinful mankind.

Humility is obedience to God’s word. Jesus perfectly submitted to the will of the Father.

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home:

1 Timothy 3:16 “By common confession, great is the mystery of godliness: He who was revealed in the flesh, Was vindicated in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Proclaimed among the nations, Believed on in the world, Taken up in glory.”

Notes:

Christ, who eternally existed as one in person and nature (divine), became two in nature (divine and human) in ONE person at His incarnation. A human nature was inseparably united forever with the divine nature of Jesus Christ. Yet the 2 natures remain distinct, whole, unchanged, and without mixture or confusion, so that Jesus Christ is true humanity and undiminished deity in one person forever. So, at the virgin birth, Christ as eternal God **ADDED** humanity, and was now 2 natures (undiminished deity and true humanity) united in one person forever.

In the union of humanity and deity, each of these natures retained its own attributes. Deity did not permeate (or bleed over into) humanity, nor did humanity become absorbed into deity. The 2 natures retain their complete identity even though they have been joined together in a personal union. Embracing perfect humanity made Jesus Christ no less God, and retaining His undiminished deity made Him no less human.