

A close-up, high-speed photograph of water splashing. The water is captured in mid-air, creating a dynamic, textured spray of droplets and bubbles. The background is a soft, out-of-focus greyish-blue, suggesting an outdoor setting with trees or foliage. The overall tone is clean and refreshing.

**Philippians  
2:5-7a**

**Love Steps  
Down**

**An adage is something which people often say, and which expresses a general truth about some aspect of life, an old-fashioned proverb**

- A penny saved is a penny earned
- Don't judge a book by its cover
- The early bird gets the worm

**An adage is something which people often say, and which expresses a general truth about some aspect of life, an old-fashioned proverb**

- In sales, safety, and relationships there is an adage which says, *“Familiarity Breeds Complacency”*
- Safety managers know that when an employee has done a particular task many times, that individual can become so familiar with the action that they no longer have to pay close attention while performing the work

**An adage is something which people often say, and which expresses a general truth about some aspect of life, an old-fashioned proverb**

- In sales, safety, and relationships there is an adage which says, *“Familiarity Breeds Complacency”*
- You start making assumptions, you stop appreciating them, you stop paying close attention, the relationships become secondary in your life

## **Are you complacent when it comes to your relationship with the person of Jesus Christ?**

- It is easy to get to that point
- We attend His services weekly and spend time with Him during the week
- We have an abundance of head knowledge
- We have had wonderful experiences with Him
- Life gets so complicated

## Are you complacent when it comes to your relationship with the person of Jesus Christ?

- Has your appreciation and love for Him wavered?
- Are you taking Him for granted?
- Have you lost your first love for Him?
- **Revelation 2:4-5a NIV**, “4 Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. 5 Consider how far you have fallen!”

## **Are you complacent when it comes to your relationship with the person of Jesus Christ?**

- How can we truly appreciate who we are in Christ Jesus, the blessings received, and the future promised with peace and confidence?
  - We must never lose sight of the person of Jesus Christ

## Scripture

- **Philippians 2:5-7a NLT**, 5 You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. 6 Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. 7 Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being.

## Paul's Statement

- When it comes to pleasing God the Father, living a life that glorifies His name, living a life of peace, contentment, and honor
  - Have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had
  - One governed by humility

## Paul's Statement

- This was radical teaching in the Roman world
- The word then meant something like “crushed” and was associated with failure and shame
- Humility before a god or emperor was appropriate, primarily because they could kill you
- Humility before an equal or lesser was morally suspect
- Honor was proof of merit where shame or humility a proof of worthlessness

## Paul's Statement

- The here comes Jesus, the one who deserves the highest honor and glory dying as a worthless criminal on the cross
- Who demonstrated to us a new way of living and thinking
- A life governed by humility
- It was not just His words, but His entire example

## **Vs. 6a, “Though he was God”**

- Don't go past this statement of fact too fast
- What does this statement mean?
- Some translations, “Being in the form of God” has nothing to do with shape but everything that makes God
  - **AMP** - Possessing the fullness of all the divine attributes—the entire nature of deity

## **Vs. 6a, “Though he was God”**

- It doesn't say Jesus was “*like*” God or “*imitated*” God or even “*similar*” to God
- He was, is, and always will be God the Son
- What does this mean?
  - Everything that makes God, God you will discover in Jesus Christ
  - He just doesn't do Godlike things, or just think Godlike thoughts, or just hold Godlike honor and glory, but **He was, is, and always be God**

## Vs. 6a, “Though he was God”

- What does the Apostle John tell us about Jesus?
  - The honor of being creator of everything **John 1:3 NIV**, Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.
  - The honor of the first-born **John 8:58 NIV**, “Very truly I tell you,” Jesus answered, “before Abraham was born, I am!”

## **Vs. 6a, “Though he was God”**

- The honor of authority **Matthew 28:53 NIV**, “Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?”
- **Isaiah 6:1-4 NIV**, 1 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. 2 Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying.

## **Vs. 6a, “Though he was God”**

- The honor of authority **Matthew 28:53 NIV**, “Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?”
  - **Isaiah 6:1-4 NIV**, 3 And they were calling to one another: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.” 4 At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

## Vs. 6a, “Though he was God”

- The honor of authority **Matthew 28:53 NIV**, “Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?”
- **Revelation 19:10 NIV**, 10 At this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, “Don’t do that! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers and sisters who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For it is the Spirit of prophecy who bears testimony to Jesus.”

## **Vs. 6a, “Though he was God”**

- C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*, “I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: I’m ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don’t accept his claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher.

## **Vs. 6a, “Though he was God”**

- C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*, “He would either be a lunatic — on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse.

## **Vs. 6a, “Though he was God”**

- C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*, “You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.”

**Verse 6-7, “he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to, but he gave up his divine privileges”**

- Have you ever been asked to do a task that you thought was beneath you or your abilities?
  - Hiring computer interns with their first job of sweeping out computer room or blowing out extremely dirty dusty computers

**Verse 6-7, “he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to, but he gave up his divine privileges”**

- Why would this bother some of them?
  - Beneath their education, training, desires
  - Beneath how I see myself and want to be

**Verse 6-7, “he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to, but he gave up his divine privileges”**

- If anyone could claim special exception it would have been Jesus
  - “he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to”
    - He didn’t see His position as something earned, or He could lose

**Verse 6-7, “he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to, but he gave up his divine privileges”**

- If anyone could claim special exception it would have been Jesus
  - He didn't see it as beneath His position even though it was, beneath His glory even though it was
  - He saw it as an absolute necessity in completing God the Father's work bringing salvation to mankind

**Verse 6-7, “he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to, but he gave up his divine privileges”**

- **Amp,** “He emptied Himself without renouncing or diminishing His deity”
  - Pouring indicates a downward progression
  - Jesus poured Himself downward from a position of honor, glory, and majesty into one without in comparison
  - An emptying that cannot be measured by our human minds

**Verse 6-7, “he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to, but he gave up his divine privileges”**

- So, what was poured out of Jesus?
  - The Son of God, the Creator of all *“gave up his divine privileges”*
  - Did He give up His place as equal to God the Father?
  - When He was born was any less than He was before?

**Verse 6-7, “he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to, but he gave up his divine privileges”**

- Jesus gave up His right to His divine rights
  - The right to be honored, respected, served, obeyed, praised, and all other rights that belong to God in heaven
  - He gave up the right to rule and sit on His throne
  - He gave up the right to operate as God and chose to operate as a human

**Verse 6-7, “he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to, but he gave up his divine privileges”**

- **John 13:3-5 NIV**, 3 Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; 4 so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. 5 After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

**Verse 6-7, “he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to, but he gave up his divine privileges”**

- Does this sound like something God should be doing?
- Does this look kingly?
- Why would Jesus do this?
  - That we might know how to live to the glory and honor of God
  - To show us the true meaning of living life to the fullest

**Verse 6-7, “he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to, but he gave up his divine privileges”**

- **Luke 12:15 NIV**, Then he said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.”
  - Not just things, but position, authority, power, to be seen as right, even to be respected and honored

**Verse 7b**, “Instead he took the humble position of a slave (*servant*) and was born as a human being.”

- Jesus emptied Himself into the position of His created, in the lowest form possible, a slave
  - Not a change in who He is, but a change of position
  - He was born completely and totally human
  - In the human position, He was born a slave or servant
  - As Mark Lowery wrote in “*Mary Did You Know*”, “And when you kiss your little baby you kissed the face of God”

**Verse 7b**, “Instead he took the humble position of a slave (*servant*) and was born as a human being.”

- What does this mean?
  - **Mark 10:45 NIV**, “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”
  - God the Son took the position as the Son of Man to serve His creation

**Verse 7b**, “Instead he took the humble position of a slave (*servant*) and was born as a human being.”

- What does this mean?
  - After pouring out Himself into humanity, He poured out Himself unto service all the way to death
  - His entire human life was a pouring out
  - He poured out His wisdom, strength, healing, love
  - His command to us today is, “*Go and do likewise. Pour yourself out for others.*”

**Verse 7b, “Instead he took the humble position of a slave (*servant*) and was born as a human being.”**

- Human from the birth experience all the way through our death experience with all the hardships in-between
- Jesus is uniquely qualified to reach backward in His deity and forward in His humanity
- He could receive worship being God and serve all mankind by being human at the same time
- Nothing was beneath His position as a slave, even death on the cross

**Verse 7b, “Instead he took the humble position of a slave (*servant*) and was born as a human being.”**

- This is humility expressed at its deepest level and to be a model for our lives
- If anyone could have said “No” to what God was asking
  - To accuse God of asking too much of Him
  - It could have been Jesus

**Verse 7b**, “Instead he took the humble position of a slave (*servant*) and was born as a human being.”

- But He didn't, simply saying in **Luke 22:42 NIV**, “Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.”
- The ultimate expression of servanthood was expressed in the cross of Jesus Christ

## Hudson Taylor

- Hudson Taylor was missionary to China and was scheduled to speak at a large church in Melbourne, Australia. The moderator of the service introduced the missionary in eloquent and glowing terms. He told the large congregation all that Taylor had accomplished in China, and then presented him as “our illustrious guest.” Taylor stood quietly for a moment, and then opened his message by saying, “Dear friends, I am the little servant of an illustrious Master.”

# Hudson Taylor

- May we never forget that we are little servants of an illustrious Master



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