

This midweek study will explore the biblical doctrine of Christ's humiliation. Use the following main points, Scriptures, teaching/discussion ideas, and questions to help students gain a better understanding of the essential doctrine for this session.

Essential Doctrine: Christ's Humiliation

Although God the Son was equal with God and worthy of all the glory God receives, He chose to humble Himself by taking on human flesh. He left His glorious state and came in the likeness of sinful flesh (Rom. 8:3), and experienced a humiliating death on a cross (Phil. 2:6-8) by becoming sin for us so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God (2 Cor. 5:21).

1 Jesus humbled Himself first by becoming a human being. (Luke 2:7; John 1:1-2,14; Phil. 2:5-7)

Read John 1:1-2,14.

- ▶ According to John, in what way did Jesus experience a degree of humiliation by becoming a human being?

Jesus is one with God and was with God since the beginning. Despite this, He became like us; He left heaven and came to earth to dwell among sinful man. He was still full of glory, yet lived in our broken world. God's one and only Son left the presence of His Father and His home and came to us.

Read Philippians 2:5-7.

- ▶ How did Paul point out the tremendous humiliation God the Son underwent by becoming a human being?
- ▶ What status did Jesus assume as a human being?
Not a king or official, but a servant. Jesus set aside His royalty and "rights" as the Son of God and became like a slave.

Read Luke 2:7.

- ▶ In what way could Jesus' birth be seen as humiliating?
- ▶ When Jesus became incarnate, "reduced" to flesh, what kind of initial reception did He have?
- ▶ So how does the simple fact that God the Son became human show the first aspect of Jesus' humiliation?

2 Jesus suffered torture, mistreatment, and injustice more than any other human being. (Luke 22:52-53; John 18:20-23; Phil 2:8)

- ▶ What do you know about crucifixion as punishment? Why would this be humiliating?

A crucifixion was a humiliating experience. This punishment was so grotesque that the Romans typically reserved it only for slaves. Eventually, it became a popular way to dissuade criminal activity.

Read Luke 22:52-53.

- ▶ How should our hearts respond to God the Son being humiliated even to the point of death? Even a criminal's death where His clothes were gambled for by soldiers?

Read Philippians 2:8.

- ▶ How did Jesus' death cause further that humiliation than becoming a human being and a servant?
Though Jesus had done nothing illegal, He was sentenced to death on a cross and all of the humiliation that came along with such a punishment.

3 Jesus, the Son of God, died, was buried, and rose again. (Isa. 53:9; John 19:41-42)

- ▶ Have you ever been to a graveside funeral service where they lowered the coffin into the ground? How did the family respond when the coffin was lowered?

Read Isaiah 53:9.

- ▶ God died. How was Jesus' succumbing to death a humiliating act?

Read John 19:41-42

- ▶ In what ways was Jesus' burial in the tomb humiliating?
It wasn't even His tomb, and He was buried in it because they needed to bury Him quickly.

WRAP IT UP

- ▶ Knowledge should be the wood that becomes fuel for the furnace of the heart. How does this lesson on Jesus' humiliation cause us to treasure Him more? To be more like Him?