

Christianity 101

Lesson 2: Get Down

Open

Jesus is our lead role model, our example of how we should live our lives. Even though he was God himself, he humbled himself under his Father and submitted himself to God's will, even when it meant he had to endure rejection, torture, and death so that he could fulfill God's plan for mankind's redemption. The following passage says that Jesus "made himself nothing" so that God could live through him to accomplish his purposes. He "got down" in submission so that God would be lifted up in glory and honor and praise.

What happens when we "get down" in humility with a submissive attitude and allow Jesus to shine through us? Do you think God gets more glory when we try to be good, perfect people according to the world's standards or when we submit to God's will and let him work through us, even if the world rejects us?

Study

Philippians 2:5-11

- ⁵Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:
⁶Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,
⁷but made himself nothing,
taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.
⁸And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to death—
even death on a cross!
⁹Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,
¹⁰that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

JESUS IS KING

NOTES

Deserving Honor

"...at the name of Jesus every knee should bow..." Philipians 2:10

- God placed Jesus as King above everything in heaven, on earth, and under the earth. If Jesus is King over all creation, what kind of respect should we pay him?
- God has placed Jesus in the seat of highest power and highest honor, and he expects us to give Jesus all the honor he deserves. This means we cannot place anything above Jesus; he is to be our ultimate goal, the main focus of our lives, and ruler over every part of our lives.
- In the Old Testament, when a new king was crowned and anointed to be ruler over God's people, the people celebrated with shouts, singing, music, and rejoicing. If Jesus is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords (Revelation 19:16), then how much more should we celebrate him and his victory over the world?
- 1 Peter 3:15 tells us to set apart Jesus as Lord in our hearts. This means that we are not to just say that Jesus is our Lord, but we must really get it in our hearts that he is greater than anything we can know or imagine and that we will do whatever he requires of us.
- What does "bowing" before Jesus symbolize? When we bow, we lower ourselves, which admits humility. To really honor Jesus, we must admit that he is greater than we are and follow his example of humbling himself, making himself nothing, and taking on the role of servant (see opening passage).

Deserving Obedience

"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me." Luke 9:23

- If we want to be included in God's kingdom, over which Jesus is King, we must follow Jesus and obey Him. No earthly king would allow those living in his kingdom to do whatever they wanted; he would demand and expect obedience. If one of his people did not obey the king's orders, that person would be killed or banished from the kingdom. How much more should a holy, righteous, just, and heavenly King expect obedience from his people?
- In the opening passage from Philipians 2, we read that Jesus was obedient even to his death. Jesus, who is God, still humbled himself before his Father and obeyed his Father's commands, even when obedience meant dying for those who had sinned against God.
- Sometimes it is hard to obey God, because others might

mock us, hate us, or reject us, or we may have to go without certain luxuries or deny our flesh certain "pleasures." But Jesus deserves our obedience and our love because God commands it, because Jesus was obedient, and because Jesus--who is God--is greater and more powerful than all of creation. Galatians 2:20 says that we are crucified with Christ so that Jesus can live through us. When we deny our flesh and obey God's commands, we allow Jesus to live through us and to help us follow after him.

NOTES

THE KING'S COMMANDS

Ten Commandments

"Hear, O Israel, the decrees and laws I declare in your hearing today. Learn them and be sure to follow them." Deuteronomy 5:1

- See if you can name all ten commandments without looking in the Bible. Read Exodus 20:2-17 or Deuteronomy 5:6-21 to learn all ten of them.
- In everyday language, this is what God commands: place God above everything else, do not make a god to suit yourself, do not use God's name carelessly, take time to meet with and rest in God, show your parents honor, do not kill (or hate anyone; 1 John 3:15), do not sleep with anyone outside of marriage (or lust; Matthew 5:28), do not take anything that is not yours, do not lie, do not be jealous of other people.

Two Commandments

"All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." Matthew 22:40

- What is the first and greatest commandment, according to Jesus? He tells us in Matthew 22:37 "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."
- What is the second greatest commandment? In Matthew 22:39 he tells us, "Love your neighbor as yourself."
- When you think about these two commandments and compare them to the Ten Commandments given to Moses, you can see that these two laws encompass everything spoken to Moses by God. How so? If you love God with everything you've got, you will honor him above all else, not try to make him to suit your lifestyle, use his name carelessly, and take time to meet with him. If you love all your neighbors, you will respect your parents, not kill or hate anyone, not desire anyone but your spouse, not steal, not

lie, and not have jealousy.

- If we obey these two commandments, we will love God more than ourselves and we will love other people selflessly. Doing these things does not earn us "God points," but it is showing God that we love him and honor him as Lord.

NOTES

THE KING'S BLESSINGS

Rewards

"The Lord will establish you as his holy people, as he promised you on oath, if you keep the commands of the Lord your God and walk in his ways." Deuteronomy 28: 9

- Read over Deuteronomy 28:1-14. What kinds of blessings does the Lord promise his people if they will only obey him and follow his laws?
- God told his people that he will set them "high above all the nations on earth" if they would obey his commands. Considering that the nation of Israel was overtaken by the Assyrians and that Judah was conquered by the Babylonians, do you think that God's chosen people kept his commandments?
- If we obey God, he promises that we will be blessed wherever we go, our children will be blessed, we would be prosperous, and our enemies would be defeated. Sometimes it feels like our obedience goes unnoticed by God, but he sees everything we do and hears all that we say. But Paul writes in Galatians 6:9, "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." "At the proper time" may not be what we think is the right time, but will be according to God's timeline.
- What happens to us if we do not obey God? Deuteronomy 28:15-68 contains numerous curses that will come upon those who disregard God's law and live for themselves instead. Verse 28-29 says, "The Lord will afflict you with madness, blindness and confusion of mind...You will be unsuccessful in everything you do; day after day you will be oppressed and robbed, with no one to rescue you." Isn't this the mental and spiritual state of those who do not know God and who choose not to follow him? So many people have been cursed with mental and physical illnesses, and so many cannot find happiness in anything that they do with their lives; they feel emptied and depressed and void of meaning. The world is full of the confusion that God promised would come upon those who disobeyed.
- But for those who obey, there is hope, joy, and peace. God is with those who are called by his name, and if we obey him he promises fruitfulness in our lives.

Revelation

"Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him." John 14:21

- Jesus has promised here that anyone who obeys his commands will know him. This is a promise for anyone, even those who are not sure God exists or who wonder if God cares about them. Maybe we will not actually see Jesus with our own natural eyes, but he will make his presence and his love known to us, so that we cannot doubt his existence.
- Our greatest desire should be to seek and know God our Father. To know God's love and see Jesus, all we have to do is follow Jesus and do what he tells us. This requires humility, meaning we become like little children in our understanding. Jesus praised God because he has hidden things "from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children" (Matthew 11:25).
- So many false teachers have ideas about how we can know God, get closer to God, and become like God with things like meditation, asceticism, special diets, drugs, herbs, etc. It is pride that causes us to think we can get close to God by doing things God did not command, but when we are humble and admit that God's way is better, Jesus said that he will show himself to us.

Close

Our life in this world is not about us; it is about serving God and seeing Jesus lifted up. We may experience loneliness or rejection, but it is for Jesus' sake, which makes it worthwhile. We might get scared to share our faith with others or live a life of holiness among our peers who are doing all kinds of sinful things, but we must remember that it isn't about us and how we feel but about Jesus and his glory.

- Like Paul, we must be crucified with Christ and allow Jesus to live through us. We must obey whatever the cost to our flesh, and we will receive our eternal reward in heaven.
- We must listen to God with humility, remain teachable and open to correction and discipline. Our love for God will show through what we do and say.

Get Down Christianity 101--Lesson 2

Jesus is King

1. Deserving _____

"at the name of Jesus every knee should bow" Philippians 2:10

2. Deserving _____

"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me." Luke 9:23

The King's Commands

1. _____ Commandments

"Hear, O Israel, the decrees and laws I declare in your hearing today. Learn them and be sure to follow them." Deuteronomy 5:1

2. _____ Commandments

"All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." Matthew 22:40

The King's Blessings

1. R _____

"The Lord will establish you as his holy people, as he promised you on oath, if you keep the commands of the Lord your God and walk in his ways." Deuteronomy 28:9

2. R _____

"Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him." John 14:21

Memory Verse: *"Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him." John 14:21*

Discussion for "Get Down"

Open: Which of Jesus' characteristics mentioned in the passage from Philippians do you most admire? Why? Can others see such a quality in you?

Discussion: *Philippians 2:5-11*

- Verse 5 says that our attitudes must be the same as Jesus' while he was on the earth. What sort of attitude did Jesus have while here? Was he cheerfully and willingly obedient or was he stubbornly and reluctantly obedient? We must be submissive in our attitudes as well as in our actions.
- Give an example of obedience without submission. God looks at our hearts as well as our actions and words.
- Why do you think it is so important to God that we submit our hearts to him? Why is it important to maintain humility among other people?
- Why does it take humility and meekness to obey and follow Jesus? Can we really call ourselves Christians if we are prideful?
- If we are to obey the commandments to love God and love our neighbors, can we do it without humility? Why is a humble heart necessary for one to be full of love for others?

Cross References: *1 Peter 3:15, Revelation 19:16, 2 Chronicles 7:14, John 15:1-11*

Reflect:

- Have you allowed Jesus to be your Lord as well as your Savior?
- Have you made a commitment to follow after Jesus, whatever the cost?
- Do you maintain a humble attitude towards God and towards other? Are you able to receive correction and discipline without getting defensive or proud?

Prayer:

- Take time to ask God for more humility, love, and patience.
- Pray that the name of Jesus would be lifted up in your heart, your home, your school, and your community; that every knee would bow to him and every tongue confess he is Lord.

Memory Verse: *"Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him."*
John 14:21