

## NT Framework 24

### Kenosis Applied

#### I. Doctrine of Kenosis

A. Key Passage: Philippians 2:1-11. Paul reveals in depth doctrine in the middle of very practical application passages.

1. We need this deep theology because that's what energizes us. It's what motivates us. The result is we grow strong. Paul used the word φρονεω (phroneo), which means to develop an attitude based on careful thought. We really have to think long and hard by ourselves about Christ's humility.
2. Telling people to be humble or love one another over and over does not motivate. The result is we get tired.

B. Jesus Christ gave up the independent use of His divine attributes.

#### II. Four Points of Kenosis Applied

A. Humility is the foundational Christian virtue

1. Greeks and Romans had virtue lists, but none of them list humility (brave, temperate, generous, truthful, witty, friendly, spirited, etc...)
2. Humility is a right evaluation of self. It starts with recognition of the Creator-creature distinction. How can you be arrogant if you recognize you're a creature and He's the Creator?
3. Humility requires us to be seeking the approval of God, not men. If you are trying to get approval from other people you are not trying to get honor from the Creator, and that will prohibit you from believing (Jn 5:39-47).
4. The kenosis model of Christ is a picture of what humility looks like. Was He courageous? Absolutely! Was He a real man? Absolutely! But was He humble? Absolutely! So, being humble is not the opposite of being courageous.
5. Humility is a pattern of life where you are not exalting yourself, but you are following God's plan for your life as a creature (Heb 2:10-13). The end result is HE WILL EXALT YOU (Mt 18:1-6). Jesus is the humblest person who ever lived, and He will be exalted to the helm of the universe (Phil 2:9-11).
6. Humility is a pattern of life where you are able to not grow weary and lose heart (Heb 12:3)
7. Humility is a pattern of life where you are able to endure hostility by entrusting yourself to Him (1 Pt 1:21). It's not weakness. It's the most powerful position on earth.

"If you catch on to Christian doctrine and theology, the world will strike you as amazingly trivial."

“O, then, let us hear those arguments of Christ whenever we feel ourselves growing dull and lifeless. Can you hear Him saying, ‘Did I die for those people, and will you then refuse to look after them? Were they worthy of my blood, and are they not worth your labor? Did I come down from Heaven to seek and to save that which was lost, and will you refuse to go next door, or to the next street or village to seek them? How small is your labor or condescension compared to mine! I debased myself to do this, but it is your honor to be so employed. Have I done and suffered so much for their salvation, and will you refuse that little that lies upon your hands?’ - Richard Baxter

B. Subordination in human relationships

1. If Christ submitted to the Father, then obviously we should submit to authorities.
  - a) Wives to husbands
  - b) Children to parents
  - c) Employees to bosses
2. When you see a society that is constantly rebellious against authority structures like the police, parents, etc... you are seeing an outworking of the lie.
3. The lie is that subordination means inferiority of essence.
4. The Son was always in submission to the Father (1 Cor 11:1-17; 15:23-24), and it had nothing to do with inferiority of essence, but simply a different role in an authority structure.

C. Christ can sympathize with us as our High Priest

1. He knows what you are going through. The word became flesh and dwelt among us. Allah never came down here and went through what you go through. Allah didn't face pain like you do. Jesus Christ does. The God of the Bible came down here and walked through the struggles and trials and temptations that you and I have to walk through.