

The Humility of God

Sermon Notes - December 21, 2008
Isaiah 57:15; John 14:1-9a

"For this is what the High and Lofty One says – He who lives forever, whose name is holy; 'I live in a high and holy place, but also with him who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite.'" (Isa. 57:15)

Our shorter catechism asks: "What offices does Christ perform as our Redeemer?" And is answered in these words: "Christ, as our Redeemer, performs the offices of a Prophet, of a Priest, and of a King, both in His estate of humiliation and exaltation." It is quite clear that He who is now most exalted, was in a commensurate manner, most humbled in this life.

The Son experienced an estate of humiliation, but what about the Father? Was Jesus **God's "Errand Boy"** sent by the Father to do what the Father chose not to do, did not want to do, or could not do?

The Father remained in heaven so men on earth would see in Jesus' life what it looked like to trust, obey, and please a Father in Heaven.

What about the Father - is He humble too? Can this be an attribute of God? I can find no theology text in the library that lists "humility" as one of God's attributes. Are we treading on forbidden ground?

I. God says He dwells with the lowly. "Who is like the LORD our God, Who dwells on high, Who humbles Himself to behold the things that are in the heavens and in the earth?" (Psa. 113:5, 6, NKJV, NASB) "Though the LORD is on high, yet He regards the lowly; but the proud He knows from afar." (Psa. 138:6)

It must have been humbling for the Father to send His only-begotten, His beloved Son, to the cursed earth.

II. Jesus was the exact representation of the Father's character. "The Son is the radiance of God's glory, the perfect imprint (*charakter* in Greek) of His essence." (Heb. 1:3). The image is there, not to draw attention to itself, but to the One imaged. "Show us the Father." "He who has seen Me has seen the Father." (John 14:7-11)

The higher the position a personage occupies, the greater the potential for abasement.

III. The story of the "Prodigal Son," is the astounding account of the humility of the Father. "But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion (was moved with pity for him), and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him." (Lk. 15:20)

Why does He choose to do this? "But because of His great love for us..." (Eph. 2:4).

Is it too much for us to "stoop down" to identify with the One who took pleasure in being meek and lowly, (Mt. 11:28-30) One who chooses to be known by a cross, and in so doing showed us the Father? (Mark 8:38)

Who do we know that, if we stooped down to help them, we would travel farther than the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit did in coming to the aid of men?