

**I. THE STATE OF HUMILIATION (We are on the 4<sup>th</sup> part of Christology: names, natures, offices, states).**

**A. In general**

- 1. We have seen that God gave the man Jesus Christ, the Son of God in our flesh, a specific task to perform – our salvation.**
  - a. In order to have the authority to perform that task, God gave Him an office – prophet, priest, king.
  - b. In order to have the ability to perform that task, Christ has two natures – the divine and human united in the one person of the Son of God.
  - c. In performing the task of our salvation, the Son of God existed in two distinct states, the state of H, and E.
- 2. A state is a legal term – it refers to a person’s legal status or position before the Law of God**
  - a. The states of Christ therefore refer to His Person – the Person of the Son of God existed in two distinct positions before God’s Law.
  - b. For a time, Christ, the Son of God, existed in a state of H. He was guilty before the Law of God.
  - c. Now, Christ, the Son of God, exists forever in a state of E. He is innocent before the Law of God.
  - d. The relationship between these two states – the state of E follows H, and Exaltation is a reward for Humiliation (Phil. 2; Luke 24:26).
- 3. Christ guilty? Yes, that is what the state of Humiliation means.**
  - a. If you stood in a court of law, and the judge said of you, “You are guilty,” that would be your legal position. From that moment, you would be guilty, in a state of guilt, and then when you go to prison, you would be in a miserable condition. Your circumstances (condition) will change because of your new position (state) of guilt. So, Christ in the state of guilt, was subject to the circumstances of misery.
  - b. For a time, Christ stood before the Law of God, and God said of Christ, “You are guilty,” and then Christ was punished because He was legally guilty.
  - c. So, while in the state of H, Christ was (1) in a position of guilt (2) subject to all the demands of the law, both positive and negative (3) subject to the curse of the law (4) subject to suffering and shame. *Christ was in a miserable condition because of His state of guilt.*
- 4. How is it possible that Christ, the Son of God, the holy, spotless Son of God, could be guilty?**
  - a. First, it was not because of any sins of His own – He had no sin, He could not sin.
  - b. But, it was because Christ became legally responsible for the sins of others. At that moment, when Christ became legally responsible for our sins – at His conception – He became guilty.
  - c. This was done by the act of God in imputing (reckoning, accounting) to Christ all our sins. Christ voluntarily entered into the state of guilt because He desired the glory of God and because He loved us.
  - d. So, Christ entered this world – the Son of God in our flesh- under the burden of guilt (the guilt of all the elect of all ages), and in order to save us, He had to free Himself (and us) from that guilt.

**B. The Son of God entered the state of Humiliation in the Incarnation.**

- 1. Remember the Son of God existed prior to His birth in Bethlehem as the Eternal Son of God.**
  - a. In fact, the Son of God existed in a state and condition of perfect innocence and bliss. The Son of God existed in the bosom of the Father. The Son of God was “rich” (II Cor. 8:9); the Son of God was “in the form of God” (Phil. 2:6); the Son of God “thought it not robbery to be equal with God” (Phil. 2:6).
  - b. This means that the Son of God is coequal with the Father and the Holy Spirit: that He is as glorious, as almighty, as holy, as eternal, as unchangeable, as worthy of worship as they are.
  - c. The Son of God did something amazing – He voluntarily entered into a state of humiliation & shame. Just imagine: we do not choose to be born, but *the Son of God chose to be born*, and He chose when to be born, where to be born and in what circumstances He would be born.
  - d. Phil. 2:7 explains it this way, “He made *Himself* of no reputation [lit. “He emptied Himself”] and took upon Himself the form of a servant” [lit. “a slave”]. II Cor. 8:9 says, “He became poor” [lit. “extremely, cringingly, beggarly poor”].
- 2. In order to enter such a state of humiliation where it was possible for the sins of His people to be imputed to Him and where it was possible for Him to be subject to the Law, He became a human being.**

- a. God cannot be subject to His own Law, and God cannot have guilt imputed to Him, and God cannot suffer the condition of misery because of sin – therefore Christ had to become human. He did these things in His human nature.
  - b. But do not imagine that in that state of humiliation Christ ceased to be God. He remained God. He did not empty Himself of His deity. A summary: *Remaining what He was, He became what He was not.*
  - c. Read Galatians 4:4-5, and Hebrews 2:9, and you will see that He became man for a specific purpose.
  - d. But as a man, as the lowest form of a slave in the state of humiliation, Christ did not use His divine powers *except insofar as His work as Mediator required it.*
- 3. The Incarnation happened by the Virgin Birth [or conception] (Is. 7:14, Matt. 1:23, Luke 1:35).**
- a. The Virgin Birth is a miracle, a sign of God's power and grace. It is the bringing of a man child into the world without the means of man. No human father was involved in the conception or birth of Christ.
  - b. By means of the VB, the one born is the Son of God, not a human person, not one who is represented by Adam and therefore guilty of Adam's sin and polluted. Also, the HS shielded the Son of God from pollution which would have come from the human nature of Mary. Christ was born "of a woman" (Gal. 4) so that He would be born under the Law. [Mary did not play any active role in the salvation plan of God].

## **II. The state of Humiliation consists in five steps**

### **A. As such**

- 1. The steps of humiliation cover everything which we deserve for our sins and which Christ must suffer for us. Only when Christ has entered into all these will He have cleared Himself [and us] of guilt.**
  - a. They are, a lowly birth; lifelong suffering; death; burial and descension into hell.
  - b. The steps are not in chronological order but they are downwards steps, each step bringing Christ deeper into shame and misery with the lowest step being the descension [descent] into hell
- 2. The first step is a lowly birth, but notice that becoming a human being is not in itself humiliation.**
  - a. If being a human being was humiliation for Christ, Christ would be forever [even now] be humiliated.
  - b. In fact, in becoming human, Christ's purpose was to exalt our human nature, and to become one with us in close fellowship and love.
  - c. The "humiliation" in becoming human was in the kind of human that Christ became: a human being with a weakened, mortal human nature (liable to suffer, corrupt and die; subject to hunger, pain, fatigue, etc). Romans 8:3, "God sending His Son in the likeness of sinful flesh." Not the perfect flesh of Adam in paradise, but the flesh of fallen man, with all the effects, weaknesses of sin. Imagine that! Christ was clothed in the likeness of our sinful flesh. He was not sinful but He took on our flesh all the same.

### **B. The lowly birth of Christ was the birth that Christ – in His condescension – chose for Himself.**

- 1. Christ could have chosen to be born in lofty circumstances, to be born in a palace.**
  - a. But, He chose as His mother a lowly, insignificant woman called Mary betrothed to lower class Joseph.
  - b. He chose to arrange circumstances to be born in insignificant Bethlehem, at the worst possible time, so that there was no room for Him except in a smelly, stinking, dirty stable among the beasts.
  - c. And He chose to grow up and to spend His childhood in the backwoods of Nazareth; He chose to live with sinful parents and siblings, to be surrounded by the Nazarenes who later rejected Him.
- 2. He explains: Matt. 20:28, "The Son of Man is not come to be ministered unto, but to minister [serve]."**
  - a. Christ allowed Himself to be born, to dwell in the womb of His mother for 9 months, to be delivered in the normal way, to be nursed at His mother's breasts, to be helpless as all babies, in order to serve.
  - b. Christ did not say, "OK, here I am. Now wait on me hand and foot. Carry me on a velvet cushion, feed me the finest foods, etc." No, He was content to be in a low, in the lowest, position.
  - c. And all the pain He suffered – hunger, tiredness, etc; He suffered because He bore our sins.
- 3. Next time we will continue the state of humiliation with His lifelong suffering and death.**