

## **The Formula for Spiritual Unity, Part 4**

*John MacArthur*

### I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Philippians 2:5-8.
- B. The text of this passage was a Christological hymn.
- C. Unity in the church comes out of humility.
- D. Christ is the model for humility.
- E. Christ is a model in everything. (I John 2:6, I Corinthians 11:1, I Thessalonians 1:6, Romans 15:2, Matthew 11:29, John 13, I Chronicles 6-8)

### II. Our humiliation begins with relinquishing our right to status.

- A. Christ existed in the form of God.
- B. This means before the Incarnation, He existed as fully God.
- C. The loftiness of one's calling is not something to be held onto.

### III. We must empty ourselves.

- A. The attitude of not holding on to things leads to the actions of emptying oneself.
- B. Jesus gave up His glory, His independent authority, the exercise of His divine attributes, His eternal riches and His favorable relationship with God. (John 17, Hebrews 5:8, John 5:30, Matthew 24:36, II Corinthians 8:9, 5:21)
- C. Humility is willing to stoop in the face of the needs of others.
- D. Jesus took the form of a bondservant and carried the burden of our sins. (Matthew 28:27, Isaiah 53:6)
- E. Jesus became made in the likeness of man yet without sin. (Hebrews 4:13)
- F. He took on the appearance of man.
- G. Jesus humbled Himself to the point of death, which is the epitome of death. This was the way that men had to be served.

**Application questions:**

1. How does Jesus model humility?

---

---

2. How are we called to live the humility of Jesus similarly?

---

---

3. What areas of your life stir up your pride? How can you grow in this area this week?

---

---