

CALL to PRAYER - pray that our service would be Christ honoring and church edifying

Intro - Eph. 5:19 says we are to speak to one another in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Col. 3:16 adds a phrase - "Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you..." The Word of Christ is a major element in our meetings. The Word is to be spoken & the Word is to be sung. Today I want to pick a theme that has just been sung to us and I want to briefly highlight it. We have been reminded in song that we are to *Adore the One who stepped down from heaven and humbly came*. Jesus did not come into being at Bethlehem- He came to Bethlehem (big difference) Recent polling (cited in Messenger) says that only 41% of Americans believes that Jesus existed before Bethlehem. We have a lot of work of do to tell the message of Emmanuel (God with us). The Son has eternally existed as God, but the Son chose to descend & become like us so that He might save us. We are to Adore the One who stepped down from heaven and humbly came.

## 2 Cor. 8:9 - The Humility and Humanity of Christ

### THE HUMILITY OF CHRIST

- the distance between God and man is enormous and infinite
  - Psalm 113:5-6
    - God "stoops down" to behold the vast universe.
    - It is so small to Him
  - God "humbles Himself" just to look at the earth....how much more to enter it!
    - What is man that He is mindful of him? (Psalm 144:3)
  - They sang earlier - "Away in a Manger"
    - "Away" to be sure far, far away
- The decent of the Son of God to become a man is an act of utmost humility
  - 2 Cor. 8:9
  - I have known of people who have had a lot and then lost it (involuntary)
    - It would be a hard transition.
  - Christ willingly left the splendor to enter the squalor
    - Phil. 2:6-8
- Part of Christs humility was Him taking on the nature of humanity
  - The Son of God was made in the likeness of men
    - God had made man in His likeness, now God is made in mans likeness
  - Heb. 10:5
    - God who is spirit took on a body
    - The Word became flesh
    - The invisible God veiled in human flesh
    - God who is Light...tangibly walking in our world of darkness
- no one is greater than our God, and no one is more humble than our God

## THE HUMANITY OF CHRIST

We always need to be prepared to defend the Deity of Christ.

There is the same need to declare and defend the Humanity of Christ.

- Jesus Christ is fully God
- He is also fully man. Jesus is human is every way.
  - God humbled Himself and became like us. He is Emmanuel
- Sometimes we are want to hedge on His humanity
  - “Away in a manger no crib for a bed the little Lord Jesus lay down His sweet head....the cattle are lowing the baby awakes the little Lord Jesus no crying He makes.
  - Jesus was a perfect Child, but He was also a human Child
    - All human children cry. We come into a world full of tears
- The bible doesn't record whether Jesus cried as an infant
  - It does record that He cried as an adult Jesus wept
  - If He cried as an adult; I imagine he cried as child
- Jesus took on full humanity
  - He experience every aspect of our existence (except for sin)
  - But He bore the consequences and effects of our sin
  - Jesus felt: hunger & thirst, temptation & frustration, loneliness & heartache pain & suffering. Crying & tears
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- The Son of God entered into our existence and experienced human life as a human
  - He humbled Himself and became human
  - He experienced humanity in the extreme.
    - The perfect human who endured it all
  - He understands...perfectly
- I know not what you might be struggling with today
  - The holiday season can be a difficult season for some
    - Loss of loved ones
    - Broken relationships
    - Loneliness depression
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- Humans will fail and disappoint but there is Human who is perfect and perfectly understands
  - He chose to humble Himself and come into our world
  - In all your choosing, wont you chose Jesus?