



Unwrapping the Spirit of Christmas

The Cradle: The Spirit of Serving

Philippians 2:5-7

Why Philippians 2?

UNWRAPPING the SPIRIT of CHRISTMAS • An Advent Study of Philippians 2				
Advent	Philippians 2	The CHRIST of Christmas	The THEOLOGY of Christmas	The SPIRIT of Christmas
1st Sunday	5-7	In the Cradle	His Incarnation	Serving Others

1. The Spirit of Christmas is already ours _____ . (2:5)

The Spirit of Christmas Is Ours because:

- Jesus Christ **shows** us the _____ to follow in community with one another: *“Have this attitude among yourselves, which [was] also in Christ Jesus.”* (vv. 6-11)
- Jesus Christ **shares** with us the _____ to follow in community with one another: *“Have this attitude among yourselves, which [you] also [have] in Christ Jesus.”* (vv. 1, 12-13)

2. The Spirit of Christmas is seen in the Cradle of Christ’s _____ . (2:5-7)

Incarnation (“in flesh”) = The Son of God becoming fully human without becoming any less God!

As We Look into the Cradle We See:

- Jesus’ _____ . (6)

“in the form of God”

“He existed”

“equality with God”

- Jesus’ _____ . (7)

“taking the form of a bond-servant (lit. SLAVE)”

“being made (born) in the likeness of men (human beings)”

BEFORE the INCARNATION	The Son of God in heaven	Existing in the form/nature of God	Equal to GOD	Clothed with God’s Glory which is understandable GLORY & HONOR
AFTER the INCARNATION	Jesus Christ the Son of God on earth	Taking on the form/nature of a slave	Born as a MAN	Clothed with Human Flesh which is unthinkable SHAME & HUMILIATION

➤ Jesus' _____ . (6-7)

Jesus Humility Shows Us the Spirit of Christmas:

(v. 6) The **attitude** He had toward being clothed in the **GLORY** of God = ***Not something to be held onto for His own benefit and exploited for His own advantage!***

(v. 7) The **action** He took in being clothed with the **HUMANITY** of a Man = ***He emptied Himself...making Himself of no reputation!***

What Did Jesus Empty Himself of to Become a Man?

1) His _____ : He **stepped down** from the seat of ruling that is always His as God.

2) His _____ : He **surrendered** the riches that are always His as God.

3) His _____ : He **set aside** the rights that are always His as God.

4) His _____ : He **sacrificed** the relationship that is His with the Father on the Cross.

So WHY Did He Do It?

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." Mark 10:45

3. The Spirit of Christmas is _____ like Christ served us in His Incarnation. (2:3-5)

In the Spirit of Serving Others Like Christ Serves Us...

- Let's step down from our positions to serve one another – *and also the lost.*

- Let's surrender our possessions to serve one another – *and also the lost.*

- Let's set aside our privileges to serve one another – *and also the lost.*

- Let's sacrifice our preferences to serve one another – *and also the lost.*

Christmas Unwrapped Is the Spirit of Serving Others like Christ Serves Us!

Have I come to place where I know that I am "in Christ Jesus" and have received the power to serve others like He has served me?

Knowing that I am in Christ Jesus, who can I serve this Christmas like He has served me?

How will I need to empty myself to do it? What do I need to set aside, surrender, or sacrifice to step down from where I am to where they are?

Where do I need to start serving in our church to show the Spirit of Christmas all year long?

How has my own lack of a servant's heart caused division and strife in our church? What do I need to repent of and replace with the mind of Christ?