

took off his royal robes, and wrapped himself in a shabby cloak. It was no mere disguise, but a new identity. He took on the life of a servant to win the young woman's hand.

What a gamble! She might love him or she might spurn him and send him away, and he would lose her love forever! But that's a picture of the choice God gave to mankind, and that, of course, is what the parable is all about.

Our Lord humbled Himself in an effort to win our love. "Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation" (Philippians 2:5-7). That is the story of Christmas: God in a manger; God found in a form that no one could possibly fear.

Now the question is this: Will we love Him, or will we spurn Him and send Him away?

*Invite Him in this Christmas,  
This Saviour from above;  
The gift He seeks you need not wrap—  
He only wants your love. —Berg*

**God made His home with us that we might make our home with God.**



# Central Mountains Baptist Church

## DECEMBER 24, 2017

### A Christmas Story

**[Jesus] made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant. —Philippians 2:7**

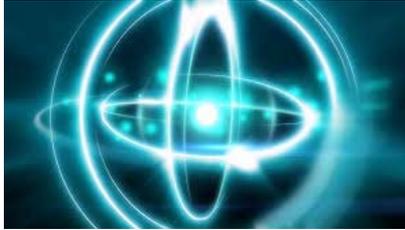
"Suppose there was a king who loved a humble maiden," begins a parable. How could he declare his love for her? She might respond out of fear or coercion, but he wanted her to love him for himself.

So the king, convinced that he could not appear as a king without crushing his loved one's freedom, resolved to descend. He stepped off his throne,

**The Lord of glory, incognito.**



# Insights for Living Christ's Mind



**(1 Peter 1:20)** "He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you"

**(Revelation 13:8)** "... the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world."

**(1 John 4:14)** "And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world."

**(John 1:1-3)** "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. {2} He was in the

beginning with God. {3} All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made."

**(John 1:14)** "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."

**(Luke 2:6-7)** "So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. {7} And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn."

In Philippians 2:5-8, the attitude and the actions which the Lord Jesus had, require us to have the same attitude and actions:

## 1. \_\_\_\_\_: count yourself \_\_\_\_\_, 2:1-11

**(Philippians 2:6)** "Who, being in very nature God, ..." [NIV]

**(Philippians 2:6)** Though he was God, ... [NLT]

**(Philippians 2:6)** Christ was truly God. ... [CEV]

**(1 Thessalonians 5:23)** "Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

**(2 Corinthians 5:8)** "... absent from the body and .. present with the Lord."

**(Hebrews 4:12)** "For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

**(Galatians 5:17)** "For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish."

## The Nature of Man



## 2. Give up what you \_\_\_\_\_ have: \_\_\_\_\_, verses 6-7

**(Philippians 2:6)** "... did not consider equality with God something to be grasped," [NIV]

**(Philippians 2:6)** "... did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped," [NASB]

**(Philippians 2:6)** "... he did not demand and cling to his rights as God. [NLT]

**(Philippians 2:7)** "but emptied Himself, ..." [NASB]

**(1 Corinthians 8:9)** "But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak."

**(1 Corinthians 8:13)** "Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble."

**(1 Corinthians 9:4-5)** "Do we have no right to eat and drink? {5} Do we have no right to take along a believing wife, as do also the other apostles, the brothers of the Lord, and Cephas?"

**(1 Corinthians 9:22)** "... I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some."



## 3. Give up what you \_\_\_\_\_ have: \_\_\_\_\_, verses 7-8

**(Philippians 2:7)** "... he took the humble position of a slave ..." [NLT]

**(Luke 1:35)** "And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God."

**(Isaiah 50:4)** "... He awakens Me morning by morning, He awakens My ear To hear as the learned."

**(Philippians 2:7-8)** "...and appeared in human form. {8} And in human form he obediently humbled himself ..." [NLT]

**(Matthew 16:25-26)** "... For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. {26} "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"

