

## Emptied!

Cornerstone Community Church – Pastor Jerry Ernst  
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### Scripture: Philippians 2:5-11

Spiritual emptying is abandoning self for God's glory! We are all in a spiritual process of either growing by reduction – or stunted by prideful promotion.

### In God's Kingdom we learn...

*Self-promotion* is prideful while *self-reduction* is godly.  
*Self-interests* are linked to a *decrease of God's Spirit*.

### Two opposite realms of thinking and living:

**World:** Elevate yourself - gain praise for self-glory.

**Jesus:** Lower yourself - lose your need for self-importance.

**Luke 18:14** – “(14) ...for all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

**Matthew 20:16** - “(16) So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

**John 3:30** – “(30) He must become **greater**; I must become **less**.”

Some translations – “(30) He must **increase**, I must **decrease**.”

### To decrease means:

To do away with “self.”  
To be less important.

### CONTEXT: Paul Challenges the Church to Strive for Humility (Philippians 2:1-11)

#### Unity in Love, Action, and Kingdom Purpose (Vv. 1-4)

“(3) Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. (4) Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.”

## EMPTIED! (Philippians 2:5-8)

### Jesus emptied himself...

#### **1) ...by a Kingdom MINDSET – The great alignment! (vs. 5)**

“(5) Your **attitude** should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:”

**NKJV** - “(5) Let this **mind** be in you, ...”

His attitude was on God's Will to enter our lostness, brokenness and sin.

#### **2) ...by Leaving His Kingdom POSITION – The great departure! (vs. 6)**

“(6) Who, **being the very nature God**, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,”

Even though Jesus was God's Son, He did not cling to His rights as God.

**BEING:** (Gk: *huparcho*): “**from the first, original, ancient;**”

**VERY NATURE:** (Gk: *morphe*): “**an outward form, great splendor, glory, power, Presence.**”

#### **3) ...by Laying Aside His Divine GLORY – The great depletion! (vs. 7)**

**NIV** - “(7) but made himself **nothing**,”

**NKJV** - “(7) ...made himself of **no reputation**,”

Voluntarily set aside His divine glory to assume true humanity.

**Nothing:** (Gk: *kenos*): “**to make empty, to evacuate, vacate, deprive, to divest, relinquish.**”

**Emptied:** (Gk: *kenoó*): “**To empty, to make void, to nullify.**”

#### **4) ...by Being a Humble SERVANT – The great surrender! (vv. 7b-8)**

*“(7) ... taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. (8) And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death – even death on a cross.”*

**SERVANT:** (Gk: *doulos*): **“slave, slaves, bondservants.”**

#### **Three things a slave does not have:**

No *Will* of his own.

No *property* of his own.

No *rights* of his own.

#### **Emptying is being under Christ’s authority**

**The Alignment** – is your *mind* and attitude like Jesus?

**The Departure** – is your *position* surrendered under Jesus?

**The Depletion** – are you *emptied* of yourself?

**The Surrender** – are you a *servant* under Jesus?

#### **Cornerstone Community Church**

God cannot have His total way where “flesh” is present.

God’s Spirit resides in selfless Christians who are spiritually hungry.

**Galatians 2:20** – *“(20) I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”*