

THE 14 STEPS OF CHRIST

Philippians 2:5-8

Introduction. These are among the most important verses in all of Scripture, and they are probably the most theological. They describe the kenosis of Christ, or the "emptying" of Christ. They describe what happened the day God became a man. There were only 14 steps taken by Christ in His whole life. Seven down and seven up. Here they are:

1. Seven steps down, 2: 6-8.

- [1] He left heaven, Hebrews 12:2
- [2] He emptied Himself, John 1:1-4, 14.
- [3] He became a servant
- [4] He became a man
- [5] He humbled Himself
- [6] He obeyed, even though it meant His death
- [7] He suffered the worst possible death.

2. Seven steps up, 2:9-11

- [1] God exalted Him, Eph. 1:21
- [2] He Gave Him a name above all names
- [3] At His name, every knee must bow
- [4] ...Everything in heaven
- [5] ...Everything on earth
- [6] ...Everything under the earth
- [7] ...Every tongue will confess His Lordship

3. Christ emptied Himself of:

[1] Equality with God, Phil. 2:6-7; Jn. 14:28; 1 Cor. 11:3.

[2] His God-form or God-body, the spirit body the He lived in from eternity, to take human form, Phil. 2:6-8; 3:21; Mt. 1:18-25; Lk. 1:35; Jn. 1:14; Lk. 24:37-40; Zech. 13:6; Gal. 4:4; Rom. 8:3.

[3] Immortality of the body, 1 Cor. 15:3; Ps. 16:10; 1 Pet. 2:24; 3:18.

[4] The glory that He had with the Father before the world was, Jn. 12:23; 17:5; Mt. 16:27; Phil. 2:5-11.

[5] His authority in heaven and in earth, which was given back to Him after the resurrection, Mt. 28:18; Phil. 2:9-11; Eph. 1:20-23; 1 Pet. 3:22.

[6] His divine attributes and outward powers that had with the Father from eternity. He had no power to do miracles until He received the Holy Spirit in all fullness (Jn. 2:11; 3:34; Isa. 11:1-2; 42:1-7; 61:1-2; Lk. 3:21-22; 4:16-21; Mt. 12:28; Acts 10:38). He could do nothing of Himself in all His earthly life. Jesus attributed all His works, doctrines, powers, etc. to the Father through the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

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