

## QUESTION 6

- a) We are now shown why Jesus has been given that name which is above every name. It is in order that something might happen! That every knee should bow.
- b) Here Paul expands his explanation of those who will bow the knee: in heaven and on earth and under the earth.
- c) We might think that the word 'every' would pretty well cover it; but Paul wants to make it very clear what this means.
- d) When Paul describes those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, he expresses Christ's universal sovereignty. No exceptions; no exemptions!
- e) This does not mean that everyone will worship Jesus as their Saviour.
- f) We can see this in **Isaiah 45:20-25**. Here, the call is to turn and be saved (verse 22).
- g) Verses 24-25 speak of the two groups who come to him. Those who come in faith (verse 25) and those who come in shame and unbelief (verse 24).
- h) We will all appear before the judgement seat of Christ. All will recognise Jesus as Lord!

## GROUP LEADER'S NOTES – STUDY 7

### QUESTION 1

- a) The reference to the 'mind' here refers to the heart and will.
- b) This is about following an example.
- c) The NIV translates verse 5 as: *"Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus"*.
- d) We are taken back to Paul's reference in verse 1, to being *"in Christ"*.
- e) The expressions "in Christ," "in the Lord," and "in him" occur something like 164 times in the letters of Paul alone. We are united with Him through what He has done in reconciling us to God.
- f) We are to have that same heart and will for others.

### QUESTION 2

- a) The original word 'form' refers to 'essence' or 'essential being or nature'.
- b) In classical Greek the word 'form' meant the sum total of essential characteristics. It was what it was precisely (see **Colossians 2:9**).
- c) Christianity begins with the recognition that Jesus is in essence the eternal God.
- d) The word for 'He was' refers to an enduring existence that always had been.
- e) In other words, Paul is referring to 'the pre-existence of Christ' (see **Colossians 1:17**).
- f) Although Jesus was always and forever God, He refused to cling to his favoured position with all its rights and honours.
- g) He did not cling to the prerogatives of deity. Cont.../

- h) Roger Ellsworth wrote: *“The Lord Jesus could have clung to these things. He did not have to agree to take our humanity. He did not have to come to this dark world. He could have rightly have said, ‘those people don’t deserve to be saved from their sins.’ He could have insisted on his rights and no one could have faulted Him. But He didn’t. He did not cling to His divine prerogatives. He did not consider all the glories of heaven and all the trappings of deity as things that must be clung to and protected at all costs. Instead He laid them all aside.”*

### QUESTION 3

- a) The idea of Jesus emptying Himself is often misunderstood.
- b) Jesus never exchanged His deity for humanity.
- c) He gave up His heavenly glory for a season (see **John 17:5** where He is ready to resume it).
- d) He also took on the form of a servant.
- e) Here again in this verse we have the word ‘form’; as we did in verse 6.
- f) This reveals that Jesus did not just come and imitate the life of a servant; He became one in very essence.
- g) As Warren Weirsbe put it: *“Jesus did not pretend to be a servant; He was not an actor playing a role. He actually was a servant! This was the true expression of His innermost nature. He was the God Man, deity and humanity united in one, and He came as a servant”*.
- h) Jesus knew exactly what He was coming to do.

### QUESTION 4

- a) Humility is a willingness to put the rights and privileges one has to one side, for the benefit of others.
- b) Humility is becoming a servant. Humility is God becoming man.
- c) We could quite legitimately conclude that for Christ to become man was humbling enough. But Paul goes on to describe exactly

how the humility of Jesus is ultimately played out on the stage of history.

- d) He becomes obedient. Indeed, He had to become man in order that He might become obedient to death.
- e) Jesus submits himself to the will of the Father.
- f) Notice how He gets lower and lower. Crucifixion was usually reserved for the lowest of the low.
- g) ‘Even death on a cross’ meant something far worse for the Jew.
- h) The Old Testament law was clear in **Deuteronomy 21:23** that any criminal who was hanged on a tree was under a curse from God.
- i) Not only would someone be looked down on by men, but also know the damnation of God.
- j) By hanging on that tree, Jesus literally became that curse for us. **Galatians 3:13-14**.

### QUESTION 5

- a) ‘Therefore’ introduces the result of Jesus’ obedient submission to death on our behalf. It basically means: ‘for that reason’
- b) The Father raises His Son from the dead and elevates Him to the place of honour.
- c) But can the Son of God be exalted higher than He was? Jesus who is already God?
- d) The thought here is the extent of exaltation in proportion to the humiliation.
- e) The name that is above every name, is the name ‘Lord’. It is the word for ‘God’.
- f) The name above all names that is given to Jesus, is the name Lord God.