

Q27. Wherein did Christ's humiliation consist?

A27. **Christ's humiliation consisted in his being born, and that in a low condition, made under the law, undergoing the miseries of this life, the wrath of God, and the cursed death of the cross; in being buried, and continuing under the power of death for a time.**

Scripture References: Luke 2:7; Philippians 2:6-8; 1 Corinthians 8:9; Galatians 3:13, 4:4; Isaiah 53:3; Matthew 27:46; Luke 22:41-44; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

DQ1: How many "steps" of humiliation does A27 describe?

DQ2: What does it mean by "his being born"?

DQ3: What does it mean by "a low condition"?

DQ4: What does it mean by "under the law"?

DQ5: What does it mean by "the miseries of this life"?

DQ6: What does it mean by "the wrath of God"?

DQ7: What does it mean by "the cursed death of the cross"?

DQ8: Why did Christ lower Himself?

DQ9: Could we be saved without Christ's humiliation?

Notes:

We have learned about the greatness of our Messiah. The great Messiah is the One who came as our Redeemer. Though He was the great Prophet, the great Priest and the great King, He preferred to humble Himself rather than claim His position, power and title for Himself. It is not easy to be humble. Yet, only those who humble himself will be able to serve others. Therein lies the secret of the redemptive work of Christ, i.e., He came to serve the pitiful sinners.

A27 describes Christ's humility in six steps. Let us take a look at them.

Step One: Christ's being born as a babe, i.e., the incarnation of Christ. Christ was born as human being but He is God. He came from a high place to a low place. The Infinite took on the infinite. This fact alone is sufficient to reveal Christ's humility.

We cannot fully understand the dimensions of God's position, power and glory. For those of us who are so influenced by the current culture that pits individualism, individual rights and freedom as its highest aspirations, knowing God as God is impossible. Yet, if we could get a glimpse of the dimensions of God's position, power and glory, we would know immediately how insignificant we are before God.

When we can acknowledge God as God, we will finally come to realize how significant Christ's incarnation is and how amazing His humility is.

Step Two: Christ is born into a low condition or status. Jews long anticipated and expected that their Messiah would come as a glorious Ruler of the nation of Israel and its people. Christ did not fit the bill. Instead, Christ came to this earth in the lowliest manner. This is Christ's humility. He did not come with pomp and ceremony. He hid His greatness in the lowliness of a human flesh.

Christ was born in the manger, grew up under poor parents, worked as a carpenter, lowered Himself to be baptized by a man, faced the temptations of the devil after a death-defying fast and prayer, made friends and disciples of fishermen and tax collectors, lacked a place where He could lay His head at night, touched the poor and the sick, was chased from place to place because of the people, was betrayed and denied by His own disciples, was wrongfully accused by the authorities of Israel, was sentenced to death by Pontius Pilate, a Roman, was forced to walk the road to Calvary with the cross on His crushed shoulders, was stripped, shed His blood and bodily fluid and suffered death.

All this took place because Christ came in the flesh. He knew of it. He came specifically to take on all this. This, too, demonstrates Christ's humility.

Step Three: Christ became obedient to the law. Christ is the great "I AM" and the Law-giver. He stood and stands above the law. The law given to man does not apply nor does it confine Him. Yet, He submitted Himself to the requirements of the law just as any other human beings. Christ, however, perfectly fulfilled the law. He did something that no human beings could have achieved. It is utterly unthinkable that Christ would subject Himself to the temptations of the devil and fully experienced the temptations of sin like any other human being. The Infinite did not mind the limits of the finite. This, again, demonstrates Christ's humility.

Step Four: Christ suffered the miseries of this life. All human beings hold onto and desire some level of self-pride. Self-pride makes it difficult for anyone to bear the miseries and pities of others, especially when it is truly debasing. Self-pride causes one to hate himself or herself, or even others. Self-pride can hurt one's psychological, emotional and even physical harm in extreme cases. Self-pride can lead to hurting and killing others. Self-pride can cause the break of a family. Self-pride can lead to wars between nations and topple nations. No one without any self-pride.

If anyone was entitled to self-pride, it would be Christ. After all, Christ is the Son of God, the Infinite and the Creator. His self-pride would be completely justified and no one would be able to fault Him. Yet, He did not uphold His self-pride. He was dragged around, was forcibly adorned with the thorny crown, was spat upon, was cursed at and was covered in His own blood after receiving an unending lashing of the whip. (Isaiah 53:4) God was suffering in the hand of man. He did not claim His self-pride. This demonstrates Christ's humility.

Step Five: Christ experienced the wrath of God. It is unthinking humility for God to suffer at the hand of man. But, His suffering does not end there. He hung on the cross and cried out "My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46) His cry epitomizes the incomparable suffering. (Galatians 3:13) This is Christ's humility.

Step Six: Christ's death on the cross. The crucifixion represents the death and suffering of hell. The Messiah suffered such a death. This is Christ's humility.

Why did Christ humble Himself? Christ humbled Himself because He loved the elect of God so much and wanted to redeem them from their sin. His humility clearly demonstrates His love for us. This is why Christ's love compels us so much. If we could not understand Christ's humility, then we would also not be able to understand Christ's love for us.

Without Christ's humility, sinners could not be saved. If there was another way for sinners to be saved, God would certainly have utilized such a means so the His way was too painful. (Ref. Matthew 26:39) Even the way in which Christ suffered demonstrates who God is.