

# Our God Made Low

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**Q.** How was Christ humiliated?

**A.** Christ was humiliated: by being born as a man and born into a poor family; by being made subject to the law and suffering the miseries of this life, the anger of God, and the curse of death on the cross; and by being buried and remaining under the power of death for a time.

(Westminster Shorter Catechism Q&A #27)

“If I then, *your* Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet.”

(John 13:14)

As a Christian, have you ever stopped to meditate on the insurmountable love that Christ has for you? Have you ever cried out like the Apostle John, “*Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!*” (1 John 3:1)? The 18<sup>th</sup> century hymn writer Charles Wesley, reflecting on the marvelous love of Jesus Christ for His elect once wrote, “*And can it be that I should gain an int’rest in the Savior’s blood? Died He for me, who caused His pain? For me, who Him to death pursued? Amazing love! how can it be That Thou, my God, should die for me?*”.

The writers of the Westminster Shorter Catechism, in focusing on Jesus’ great love for His people, asked the question, “*How was Christ humiliated?*”. The English word “*humiliated*” finds its origin in the Latin word “*humilis*” which literally means to be “*brought low*” or to be “*made humble*”. In other words, the Westminster Divines in crafting this question and answer were attempting to reflect on all the many ways that Christ was “*brought low*” for us; how He humbled Himself in order to save His people from their sins. Our catechism provides us with seven different examples of Jesus’ great humiliation on our behalf. As we see in the Gospels, Jesus the Son of God, the Creator and Sustainer of all things, was humiliated first by “*being born as a man*”. Have you ever simply paused to think about that? Have you ever truly let the reality of Jesus’ incarnation sink deep within your mind and emotions? Charles Wesley continues his hymn by writing, “*He left His Father’s throne above, So free, so infinite His grace; Emptied Himself of all but love, And bled for Adam’s helpless race; ’Tis mercy all, immense and free; For, O my God, it found out me.*”. The God of the universe who is infinite, eternal and unchangeable “*...became flesh and dwelt among us...*” (John 1:14). This fact alone should lead us to deep and heartfelt worship and praise.

But the fact that Jesus humbled Himself by becoming a man was only the tip of the iceberg in terms of His great humiliation. Our catechism goes on to say that Jesus was, “*born into a poor family; by being made subject to the law and suffering the miseries of this life, the anger of God, and the curse of death on the cross; and by being buried and remaining under the power of death for a time.*” Here the writers of our catechism have helpfully

attempted to summarize all that is revealed about Jesus' great humiliation found in Philippians 2:5-9 where we read that *"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, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross."*

Perhaps there is no more beautiful a picture of Christ's humiliation then in the account of Jesus' washing of His disciple's feet in the Gospel of John. In John chapter 13 we read, *"...When Jesus knew that His hour had come...having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end. And supper being ended...Jesus, rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded."* (John 13:1,4-5). What an amazing portrayal of Jesus' great love and humiliation on our behalf. That the God of the universe would stoop down, leaving His glorious throne in order to wash the feet of sinners who had despised and rejected Him. How can we read a passage like this and not cry out, *"Amazing love! How can it be!"*. Today remember the words of Jesus when He said, *"If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet"*. (John 13:14). Who is the Lord calling you to love and serve today?

## Dig Even Deeper into God's Word!

Luke 2:7

2 Corinthians 8:9

Isaiah 53:3

Isaiah 53:10