

Kenosis

Philippians 2:7 “keno – κενόω”

1. The true concept of kenosis is: that while our Lord surrendered no attribute of deity, He voluntarily restricted independent use to accomplish the Father’s plan for the incarnation.
2. This reveals that Jesus Christ did not exercise or use His divine attributes for His own glory.
3. In expressing His humanity, He became obedient to death, even the death of the cross. Remember: Deity obeys nothing! Christ in humanity *does*, and *did*, and *died*!
4. Note the words in [Phil. 2:7](#) MORPHE – μορφή “But himself emptied the form” μορφήν THEN “And in fashion being” καὶ σχήματι – The word fashion is SCHEMA – here it is SCHEMATI – σχήματι – “And in fashion being found as a man.” Found is APPart n.m.s. of εὕρισκω, meaning *found it – EUREKA* (excitement when a discovery is made).
5. *Morphe* emphasizes the character, the being that makes the being what it is. This word is also used to tell us that Jesus took on the “FORM” of a *doulos*, which means He “voided” the *morphe* that He rightly possessed as God, and received (passive) the *morphe* of a servant. He deliberately, intentionally, and willfully restricted the legitimate use of divine characteristics, to fulfill the plan of God for His humanity.
6. This means that He surrendered independent expressions of divine essence in order to provide salvation for all of us – Christ provides *SALVATION FOR ALL*.
7. He voluntarily took the form of man to redeem man to propitiate God our Heavenly Father. He did not use deity to benefit himself.
8. Let me say it again in a different manner: The Lord Jesus Christ was superior to man in every way, yet was willing to deprive himself of the proper function of deity, having assumed the essence of a slave, and having become in “*likeness*” of man, for the specific purpose of going to the cross to provide redemption for mankind.

Kenosis (Continued)

9. Jesus did not lose any divine characteristics by becoming a man. It did not rob one bit of the essence of God to be man. This is undiminished deity forever. He chose to restrict himself of the expressions of deity to comply with the Father's plan for the Incarnation (Jesus in flesh).
10. Since the Lord Jesus Christ, the second person of the Trinity, chose to become true humanity, He left heaven by an act of His own choice ([Galatians 4:4](#)); and He also left this world by an act of His own choice – the only Person who ever did so (apart from suicide). He dismissed His Spirit to God – [Luke 23:46](#); He dismissed His soul to Abraham's bosom – [Luke 23:43](#); He dismissed His body to the tomb – [Luke 23:53](#), [John 10:17, 18](#).

CONCLUSIONS:

1. Christ did not give up Deity.
2. Christ did give up in receiving a body but not inner change (*schema* but not *morphe*).
3. Christ took the form of man (*schema*: overt likeness).
4. The union of Christ to humanity was a part of humiliation.
5. The attributes of Christ (Sovereignty, Righteousness, Justice, Love, Eternal Life, Omnipotence, Omnipresence, Omniscience, Immutability or Veracity) were never surrendered.