

The Perfect Relationship

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In our modern society today, relationships—human relationships—are tenuous at best. Marriage for example, according to the American Psychological Association, approximately between 40-50% of first marriages end in divorce. So, there is a relationship that is a coin flip as to whether or not it's going to last. We've all experienced friendships that didn't last because we found sometimes, when times get tough, some "friends" disappear. Or when you disagree with a friend, sometimes they shut you down—I think it's called cancel culture today. Even within the church we've had situations where if you don't agree with somebody's doctrinal issue, they just write you off. They don't have any more communication with you. As a minister, I've found over the years that if you make a decision that goes contrary to what they want to do or what they think you ought to do, they just write you off. You never hear from them again. Former friends who maybe you've baptized or their kids and one incident and they're gone. The friendship dissolves, it no longer exists.

We know that perfect human relationships do not exist. We, as humans are fallible and we are imperfect. That's why we are told by Paul, in Colossians 3:12-13, because human relationships are imperfect, Paul has some cautions to help us with those relationships. I'll read this out of the New King James.

Colossians 3:12 *Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; 13) bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.* (NKJV)

This is not a request, it's not an option. We must forgive and we must show humility and meekness and long suffering and forbearance with one another. It's interesting, the Greek word *forbearing* is Strong's #430 and means "(figuratively), put up with". Sometimes we have to do that, we just have to put up with someone. It can mean "bear, endure or suffer". In our relationships with others, we have learned over the years that we must make allowances for somebody who is having a bad day. Or somebody who is going through a very difficult time because of human frailties and weaknesses. Of course, on top of that, we all have Satan to contend with. We won't turn there but in the parable of the sheepfold in John 10, we are told that Satan wants to steal us away from God. He wants to kill us physically and he wants to destroy us spiritually. He wants to turn us against one another and uses our weaknesses to do so. My point is, human relationships of all kinds are indeed tenuous due to human frailties and human weaknesses—plus Satan's provocations to divide God's people.

That being said, there is a perfect relationship that does indeed exist. It's a spiritual relationship that has existed eternally. That is the relationship between our Father and

His Son. That has been a relationship that has always existed. It's a relationship that we would do well to study and emulate and apply in our own lives and our relationships with one another.

That leads to our title today:

The Perfect Relationship

We're going to look into the relationship between the Father and the Son and look at it through four points. To set the stage and establish a background, the first point:

1. We need to prove that the Father and His Son have eternally existed.

They have always had a relationship. There's never been a time where they didn't have a relationship. Our Father and His Son have eternally existed. Regarding our Father, His name tells us He is eternal. That's what His name says. Let's go to Psalm 83:18, just the one verse. Everything we'll read out of the King James unless otherwise noted. This is a Psalm of Asaph or to Asaph so we're not sure who wrote this. We know our Father inspired it though.

Psalm 83:18 *That men may know that thou, whose name alone is JEHOVAH [Strong's #3068], art the most high over all the earth. (KJV)*

We see that the Most High God has a name and His name is Yehovah, Strong's #3068. Let's see where that is used in Isaiah 42:8. We're talking about Yehovah's name and it actually tells us that He is eternal. Yehovah Himself is speaking through Isaiah.

Isaiah 42:8 *I am the LORD [that is Strong's #3068 and the name Yehovah]: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images. (KJV)*

He is very jealous about that. He carefully regards that. The Hebrew word for *LORD* is Strong's #3068 and says it means "the self existent or eternal". The Complete Word Study Dictionary of the Old Testament by Baker and Carpenter says this about *Yehovah, Strong's #3068*:

A noun meaning God; the word refers to the proper name of the God of Israel, particularly the name by which He revealed Himself to Moses. Most scholars agree that its primary meaning should be understood in the context of God's existence. Namely that He is the I AM that I AM [they quote Exodus 3:14] and the one who was, and who is, and who always will be [they quote Revelation 11:17].

With that in mind, let's go take a look at Revelation 11:16-17. We're breaking into the fact that the 24 elders are praising God the Father and they're bowing down to Him. I'll read this out of the New Living Translation.

Revelation 11:16 *The twenty-four elders sitting on their thrones before God fell with their faces to the ground and worshiped him.*

17) *And they said, "We give thanks to you, Lord God, the Almighty, the one who is and who always was, for now you have assumed your great power and have begun to reign. (NLT)*

As has been pointed out by numerous Pacific speakers in previous sermons and papers, the word *Yehovah* means "I have always been, I will always be, and I am right now". God Almighty's name, *Yehovah*, tells us that He has always existed.

What about His Son Jesus Christ? Jesus has always been at the right hand of His Father. We have proved that over the years in many sermons and many papers. We'll just hit the highlights, let's go to John 8:52-58. This is out of the New King James.

John 8:52 *Then the Jews said to Him, "Now we know that You have a demon! Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and You say, 'If anyone keeps My word he shall never taste death.'*

53) *Are You greater than our father Abraham, who is dead? And the prophets are dead. Who do You make Yourself out to be?"*

54) *Jesus answered, "If I honor Myself, My honor is nothing. It is My Father who honors Me, [as we go through this, keep this in mind, the Father always honors His Son] of whom you say that He is your God. (NKJV)*

Christ is saying "My Father is the God you've been worshipping for millennia."

55) *Yet you have not known Him, but I know Him. And if I say, 'I do not know Him, I shall be a liar like you; but I do know Him and keep His word.*

56) *Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad."* (NKJV)

We don't know how *Yehovah* revealed that to Abraham, whether it was in a vision or He talked to him about it, we don't know. But we're told that Abraham rejoiced to look forward to see the very day when Christ was speaking this.

57) *Then the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?"*

58) *Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM." (NKJV)*

The Greek word for *AM* is Strong's #1510 and it's spelled *eimi* in English. Strong's says this: *First person singular, present indicative, it means "I exist, I have been, I was".*

Thayer's Greek Lexicon says it means "to be or to exist". What Jesus is saying is, before Abraham lived, I existed. With that in mind let's go to John 17:5. We're breaking into Jesus' prayer the night He was betrayed. Notice what He says, this gives us a very strong indication of Him being eternal.

John 17:5 *And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was. (KJV)*

So He was on the right hand of His Father before the world was ever created. The Greek word for *world* we know is *kosmos*, Strong's #2889. The Complete Word Study Dictionary of the New Testament by Spiros Zodhiates says this: "It means the universe, the heavens, and the earth". He references John 17:5 but also Acts 17:24. With that in mind let's turn to Acts 17:24 and see what it says, using this word *kosmos* and Christ saying "before the *kosmos* was created, I existed"—before then. Here's another account where the word "the", Greek "ho" is not translated and it should be "*the* God", referring to the Father.

Acts 17:24 *God that made the world [the kosmos, the universe] and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; (KJV)*

We see that the Father made the universe and we see in John 17 that Christ existed before that occurred. He existed in glory before the creation of the physical universe. Notice this important scripture in John 6:62. Early in His ministry, He's talking to His disciples and asking them a question. They didn't have a clue what He was talking about but they would later on.

John 6:62 *What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before? (KJV)*

Meaning obviously before He became a human being. Where was he before? The Bible tells us very clearly. Let's go to Mark 16:19. This is Jesus after His resurrection, appeared to the disciples as we know for 40 days. This is at the end of that period of time.

Mark 16:19 *So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. (KJV)*

In John 6:62 which we just read, that was where He was before He became a human being. He's been in glory on the right hand of His Father, eternally. Notice a prophecy in Micah 5 where Yehovah prophesies about the Messiah.

Micah 5:1 *Now gather thyself in troops, O daughter of troops: he hath laid siege against us: they shall smite the judge of Israel with a rod upon the cheek.*

[Referring to His Son]

2) *But thou, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he [referring to Jesus] come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting. (KJV)*

So Christ has been active from everlasting. The Hebrew word *everlasting* has a really interesting meaning. It's Strong's #5769 and is the Hebrew word *olam* and what it means is, "the vanishing point". It got my attention and you want to figure that out—what are we being told? Quoting from Strong's:

The vanishing point, that is practically eternity.

So here we have a Hebrew word that is attempting to describe eternity by using the term *vanishing point*. I looked up the word *vanishing point* in the New Oxford American Dictionary and it says:

The point at which something has been growing smaller or increasingly faint, disappears all together.

We talk about a vanishing point on the horizon, where you see a plane flying off into the horizon and it gets smaller and smaller and finally your eyes can't make it out and it disappears. But the Hebrew word is indicating something that goes on forever. It goes to the vanishing point and then goes on forever. It's hard for human beings to describe eternity because we have had a beginning. When you're young you think you'll never have an end, but when you get to my age anyway, you realize you have an expiration date and that is just the nature of things.

The International Standard Version translates this last sentence in Micah 5:2,

"His existence has been from an antiquity, even from eternity."

Christ's existence—Jesus' existence—has been from *antiquity, even from eternity*. I'm just hitting the high points. Mark Sappington devoted an entire sermon on that on April 29 this year if you want to go into more detail. Scripture tells us that the Father and the Son have always had a relationship, have always been together—always. Even when He walked the earth Their relationship continued. The bond between them is of course they share the same Spirit; they share the same nature. The Spirit they share is the Spirit of God Almighty. Let's go to John 14:23 and see that—see the astonishing thing that I thank God Almighty for almost every day. This was the night Jesus was betrayed. He is answering Judas, not Judas Iscariot.

John 14:23 *Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words [my commandments]: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. (KJV)*

Inside of him, for a human being—when I think of God Almighty, the Creator of the universe, all that that took, all the power, the mighty intelligence, the planning and with Jesus Christ at His right hand overseeing the universe, overseeing human beings—that we could be called as individuals and He knows us by name and that He and His Son would actually come and make Their abode in us? You can't describe the honor of that and the gratitude we have. It is done through Their nature, primarily love as we know

and They come and make Their abode inside us. So They share the same Spirit and they have the same goals, the same desires. Look at John 4:34; Jesus came not to strike out on His own. He came not to do His own thing as we would say today. Let me read this out of the New Living Translation.

John 4:34 *Then Jesus explained: "My nourishment comes from doing the will of God, who sent me, and from finishing his work. (NLT)*

So Jesus said, I'm not doing my own thing, I'm not charting new territory, I came here because I was sent here and I came here to do the will of the One who sent Me. They are in perfect unity, perfect harmony in that regard. They share the same Spirit. They have the same goals. Scripture tells us that the Father and His Son have always existed, which we humanly have a hard time wrapping our heads around. They have always existed. They have always had a relationship. They have always shared the same Spirit and had the same goals.

Closing out the first point, let's look at Their eternal relationship and dig into that a little bit. That leads to point 2.

2. Unlike Satan, Jesus never sought anything for Himself.

I think all of us realize—we understand that He set a perfect example when He was a human. He never sinned, there was never a fault found in Jesus when He walked this earth. We realize that and understand that. He lived a perfect life in order to be the perfect sacrifice. But what we don't often acknowledge, or I haven't often thought about is the fact that, as a Spirit Being, He is currently sitting on the right hand of His Father. Except when He came to the earth, He has always been sitting at the right and of His Father and He set a perfect example of doing that—while sitting at the right hand of His Father. So not only did He set a perfect example physically, He is setting a perfect example and has always set a perfect example spiritually while a Spirit sitting on the right hand of His Father for an eternity. When you think about it, for an eternity Jesus has never rebelled against His Father; never, not once. Never at cross purposes with His Father. Totally unlike Satan who looked after himself. Satan was totally concerned about himself. Christ is exactly the opposite.

Let's contrast Satan's attitude with the attitude of Jesus. Let's go to a very familiar scripture, Isaiah 14:13-14. Let's do so from the standpoint of the attitude of Jesus being eternal, sitting on the right hand of His Father eternally and never doing what we're reading about here that Satan did. I'll read this out of the New Living Translation.

Isaiah 14:13 *For you said to yourself, I will ascend to heaven and set my throne above God's stars. I will preside on the mountain of the gods far away in the north. (NLT)*

So, we see here first off, that God the Father can read minds. He can read Satan's mind because He says "You said it to yourself but I know what you said, I know what you thought; that you want to ascend up to my level."

14) I will climb to the highest heavens and be like the Most High. ' (NLT)

What does he mean *like*? The Hebrew word for *like* is Strong's #1819 and The Complete Word Study Dictionary of the Old Testament by Baker and Carpenter say it means "to compare to". So what Satan is saying is,

"I don't want to be compared to other angels; I want to be compared to Yehovah. I want to be at that same level."

We actually know he would like to supersede Yehovah. He says: "I want all beings to look to me as they look now to God Almighty. I want that." Satan does not want to come under the authority of God Almighty. He wants to do his own thing. He has a total lack of humility. So we see that his mindset is exactly opposite of Jesus who wants to do the will of His Father. What Satan wants to do is kick Yehovah to the curb and take control. That is part and parcel to human nature today, we see that all around the world.

In contrast, you see Jesus has never taken anything for Himself. There is no record in scripture where Jesus ever took anything for Himself, for His own glory or honor. Notice what Paul says in Philippians 2:5-6. Paul is encouraging us.

Philippians 2:5 *Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: (KJV)*

We want to have that same mind, same motives, same desires.

Verse 6 I'm going to read out of the New American Standard Bible and the Berean Literal Bible translates it exactly the same.

6) who, as He already existed in the form of God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped ... (NASB)

He did not consider equality with God something to be grasped. The Greek word for *grasped* is Strong's #725, the Greek word *harpagmos* and it means "the act of seizing, taking for yourself". So what we are told is that Christ never thought, never attempted to seize equality with His Father. It was not something to be seized, not something to be grasped, not something to be desired. Satan did just the opposite. Christ never considered equality with His Father something to be sought or to be taken. Rather, Jesus always humbly acknowledged the supremacy of His Father. Look at John 14:28; these are the words out of Jesus' own mouth His last night on earth. Notice what He said. He never took credit for Himself, He never exalted Himself. The only time He compared Himself to His Father was to show that His Father was greater than He was.

John 14:28 *Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, [this was the night He was betrayed and they didn't fully understand] and come again unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I. (KJV)*

What humility, to acknowledge always that His Father is greater than Himself. Let's go to John 17:3. This is the same period of time and notice what He says.

John 17:3 *And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God [that is a powerful statement that I had read over for decades and it never registered], and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. (KJV)*

We see that Jesus framed His relationship with His Father, as His Father is the only true God and His Father sent Him to do His bidding on earth. Let's go to Isaiah 44:6. That's why this scripture takes on new meaning when we understand what we just read in John 17. Yehovah is speaking.

Isaiah 44:6 *Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts [that's one of His titles]; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God. (KJV)*

What He is saying is:

“There is no god equal to Me.”

He is supreme, He is sovereign and He has a Son, Jesus Christ who willingly admits and says:

“My Father is greater than Me, My Father sent Me. I am here to do His will.”

We see that Jesus did the opposite of what Satan attempted to do. Satan wanted to compete with Yehovah for preeminence. Competition—what we see in the world today—and that is exactly what Satan did. But Jesus always acknowledged His Father's supremacy and They have always existed, eternally existed, in that relationship.

That leads us to the 3rd point.

3. In the Spirit and in the flesh, Jesus has always been a humble servant of His Father.

We know that when He was physical, but let's turn to Isaiah 52 and see that Jesus has always been His Father's servant. Yehovah is speaking here about His Son, about His Servant.

Isaiah 52:13 *Behold, my servant shall deal prudently, he shall be exalted and extolled, and be very high. (KJV)*

The Father always honors His Son.

14) As many were astonished at thee; his visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men: (KJV)

Obviously, this was referring to Jesus Christ. That is generally acknowledged that this scripture is referring to Christ and the Father says "He is *My Servant*." We don't often think that as these words were spoken to Isaiah or revealed to Isaiah, Jesus was sitting at that moment on His Father's right hand. He was right there. He heard those words being spoken, as we've seen.

Now let's go to Isaiah 53:1, talking about Jesus always being the humble servant of His Father even as a Spirit Being.

Isaiah 53:1 *Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?*

2) For he [Jesus] shall grow up before him [His Father] as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.

3) He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. (KJV)

When these words were communicated to Isaiah, Jesus was sitting right next to His Father and listening to these words.

4) Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

5) But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. (KJV)

It goes on in verse 6 to tell us what kind of healing this is primarily referring to.

6) All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him [Jesus] the iniquity of us all.

7) He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. (KJV)

The beginning of verse 10.

10) Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin ... (KJV)

Verse 11 I'll read out of the New Living Translation.

11) When he sees all that is accomplished by his anguish, he will be satisfied. And because of his experience, my righteous servant will make it possible for many to be counted righteous, for he will bear all their sins. (NLT)

My righteous servant He says. Isaiah 52:13, back to the King James.

Isaiah 52:13 *Behold, my servant shall deal prudently, he shall be exalted and extolled, and be very high. (KJV)*

His Father honors Him, His Father exalts Him.

14) As many were astonished at thee; his visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men: (KJV)

So, we see that Jesus has always been His Father's humble servant and His Father at the same time honors Him and exalts Him above all, except Himself of course. So, we have two obvious scriptural references to Jesus where Yehovah calls Him His *Servant*. Now let's go back to Isaiah 11:1 and see that Jesus is called by another name which is also, as we will see in a minute, *servant*.

Isaiah 11:1 *And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a BRANCH [in all caps, referring to Jesus] shall grow out of his roots:
2) And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD; (KJV)*

The Hebrew word means "reverence of Yehovah, sharing the same Spirit. This is widely recognized that the *Branch* refers to Jesus. Having the same Spirit as His Father and having reverence towards His Father. With that in mind, understanding that Jesus is "the Branch", let's go to Zechariah 3:8, talking about the Branch and who the Branch is.

Zechariah 3:8 *Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, thou, and thy fellows that sit before thee: for they are men wondered at: for, behold, I will bring forth my servant the BRANCH. (KJV)*

The *Branch* is Jesus, the *Branch* is His Father's Servant. We see that Old Testament scripture clearly tells us that Jesus has always been with His Father, has always been His Father's servant and you just marvel at the humility of Jesus existing eternally and always being His Father's servant and giving credit to His Father. His Father in return always honors His Son. Just the opposite of the attitude of Satan.

We also know—we've talked about Him being Spirit, He has always honored His Father and always been His Father's servant and yet what did He do while here on earth? Did he chart a new path? "I'm number one on earth and I can do this and that." He never did

that; He never took credit for Himself. He always reminded everyone that He was the Son of the living God and He was His Father's Servant. Let's go to John 4:34, New King James. This was early in his ministry but He was making it very clear that He wasn't some rogue, doing his own thing, He was here to do His Father's will.

John 4:34 *Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, [The one who sends is greater than the one who is being sent, we know that. He's acknowledging that He is being sent] and to finish His work. (NKJV)*

Now go to the next chapter, John 5:30 and I'll read this out of the New Living Translation. Jesus makes it very clear.

John 5:30 *I can do nothing on my own. [What a humble statement that is] I judge as God tells me. (NLT)*

He could hide that fact from human beings in order to exalt Himself but He didn't do that.

30 continued) ... Therefore, my judgment is just, because I carry out the will of the one who sent me, not my own will. (NLT)

Then look three chapters ahead in John 8:28. It's a theme throughout the ministry of Jesus. He keeps repeating it over and over to make sure we all get the message. It seems like modern Christianity has not gotten that message at all.

John 8:28 *Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things. (KJV)*

The credit is always going back to His Father. If that wasn't enough let's go to John 14:10 and then verse 24.

John 14:10 *Believe thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works. (KJV)*

For any of us, if we do anything good it is the Father who dwells in us who does that. We always have to give Him the credit for doing that. It's not from us, it's from Him. Verse 24.

24) He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me. (KJV)

Jesus always gave credit to His Father, never took credit for Himself, never took anything for Himself. He always acknowledged His Father's supremacy. He never had a problem with that. Satan did, but Jesus never did. He sets for us the perfect example of

unity and harmony in His relationship with His Father. That is an eternal relationship. Humility is the key to this perfect relationship. When you think about it, Jesus' eternal humility is just astonishing. It's just outstanding and His humility is something that all of us should strive to emulate with our relationship with our Father; never getting up on our high horse with our Father. Understanding who our Father is supreme and sovereign, the Almighty, the Most High and we are temporary human beings on this earth, made of dust. We should strive to emulate Jesus' humility in our relationship with our Father.

That leads us to the fourth and last point.

4. The apostles followed in Jesus' footsteps.

They didn't go off and chart a new course. Catholics changed the Sabbath. Would Jesus change the Sabbath? When He says, I just do like I'm taught. I'm here to obey my Father's commandments. The first thing man does a few hundred years down the road is change the core of everything—the Sabbath and the Holy Days. What did the apostles do? Did they do that? No, let's go to 1 Corinthians 11:1, Paul is writing.

1 Corinthians 11:1 *Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ. (NIV)*

Pretty clear—I'm here to do what Christ did, I'm here to walk in His footsteps. So the apostles didn't go rogue either and go off and do their own thing. That was Paul, what about Peter. Let's go to 1 Peter 2:21, he says the same thing. There's no competition between Peter and Paul, there's no one saying one thing and the other saying something else. Peter is saying the same thing. I'll read this out of the New Living Translation.

1 Peter 2:21 For *God called you to do good, even if it means suffering, just as Christ suffered for you. He is your example, and you must follow in his steps. (NLT)*

Not an option, it is a commandment. Follow in the steps of Jesus Christ. We are to follow His example in all ways. We know we are to keep the commandments of Jesus Christ. We won't turn there but in John 14:21 Christ said:

He that has my commandments and keeps them, he is the one who loves Me.

The commandments that Jesus spoke were the same commandments His Father spoke in the Old Testament. Have we considered following His example in His relationship with His Father? We've talked about following in His footsteps in how we deal with human beings, loving our brother as ourself and all of that, but have we considered trying to follow His relationship with His Father and the degree of humility and the degree of service Jesus rendered to His Father? Have we considered following that example of humility and service to His Father?

Most of Christianity puts the Son ahead of the Father. Puts the Son before the Father. You go on a Sunday morning—I don't, but have in the past—if you peruse the Sunday morning church service they are always talking about the Lord and they refer to Jesus Christ. The Father is nowhere to be found. Modern Christianity puts the Son ahead of the Father. The Father is off somewhere. He arrives at the last minute after the Son does everything. As we have read, scripture clearly tells us that the Son put His Father first and if we're going to follow the Son's example then maybe we better put our Father first and honor and glorify our Father in exactly the same way that Jesus honored and glorified His Father.

We read this earlier, John 17:3, let's go back there and I'm going to read it out of the New Living Translation this time. Let's read it from the standpoint of the Son putting the Father first. Our Christian religion should put the Father first.

John 17:3 *And this is the way to have eternal life—to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth. (NLT)*

We see, put in perfect perspective, that the Father is supreme and sovereign, He sent His Son to earth to do His will. The Father comes before the Son. Humility is at the core of this relationship between the Father and the Son. Everything that we have covered to this point—the thing that just jumps out—is the Son's humility relative to His Father. Willing to put Him first, do His will, follow His words, do exactly what He says. If that's the case, then humility should be at the core of our relationship with our Father. Humility should be at the core of our relationship with our Father. Let's go to Isaiah 57:15. This tells us the role humility should play in our lives. Humility should be at the core of our relationship with our Father.

Isaiah 57:15 *For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones. (KJV)*

The Hebrew word for *contrite* is in English, *dakka*, [Strong's #1793](#). [The Complete Word Study Dictionary of the Old Testament](#) by Baker and Carpenter says this:

An adjective meaning "destruction".

Isn't that interesting? This is *contrite*, it means "destruction".

A crumbled substance; an object crushed into powder or pulverized into dust.

Think about that. Thus, by extension *dakka* can mean "humble" or "contrite". Your spirit is just crushed into powder, crushed into dust. When I was a freshman at Texas A&M, they called us "fish" and we were hazed for a whole year. They made it very clear that we were lower than anything on the bottom of the ocean. They would yell in our ear,

“Do you know what’s on the bottom of the ocean? Do you know the lowest stuff on the bottom of the ocean? Can you imagine what excrement might be at the bottom of the ocean? Well, that’s you.”

They were trying to break our spirit and then build you up in later years. The same thing with basic training in the military. We see that *contrite* means that—“crushed into powder”. Crushed into just nothingness almost. That’s the kind of humility that Jesus Christ had because He never exalted Himself, He never took for Himself. With that in mind turn to Philippians 2:3, talking about now, our relationship with other human beings. We’re finishing this fourth point that we are to try to emulate Jesus’ relationship with His Father in our life.

Philippians 2:3 *Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves ... (NIV)*

That is exactly what Jesus did. He valued His Father above Himself. Has so for an eternity and we need to copy that and follow in His footsteps and value other human beings better than us. Humility is the core of any good relationship—any good human relationship—when you put the other first. In a marriage if you put your mate first and your mate knows you put them first, that is a bond that can’t be broken. Or if you have a friend and you will sacrifice for your friend—you put them first. That is the core of any good human relationship.

It all comes down to, as we close out this fourth point, whose will do we want? With that in mind let’s go to Luke 22:42, this is Jesus just before His suffering started while He was praying to His Father. He helped create the human body so He knew what lay ahead of Him as far as pain goes. He’s known that ever since the plan of God was formulated. He knew what was going to happen.

Luke 22:42 *Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done. (KJV)*

The Greek word for *will* can also mean “desire”. My desire—I want your desire to be done. My desire is for Your desire to be done regardless about how I feel personally about it. That leads us to James 4:7, last scripture in this fourth point. This is why James says what he says. This is the bottom line. It comes down to whose will do we want? Ours, which Satan did? Or follow Christ’s example.

James 4:7 *Submit yourselves therefore to God. [Come under the authority of, follow the will of God] Resist the devil ... (KJV)*

Because he wants you to oppose God and follow in the devil’s footsteps which puts ourselves equal to God. I’ve had church members say in the past, “How dare God do that.” Really? “How dare God make me sick.” “How dare God allow me to die.” Bad place to be.

7 continued) ... and he will flee from you. (KJV)

We should follow Jesus' example—His humble example—of service in everything that we do, in all our relationships. His entire human life was dedicated to the humble service of His Father and to all of us, thinking nothing of Himself, taking nothing for Himself. We should follow Jesus' example and attitude of humility and service. We should put our Father first, in all matters and then serve our brothers and sisters and fellow man as much as we would serve ourselves.

Let's wrap this up now. As I said in the beginning, for all eternity there has only been one perfect relationship. Think about that—only one perfect relationship and that is between the Father and His Son. Perfect unity, perfect harmony—and this is what blows my mind—for eternity. For eternity there has never been one cross word. There has never been one instance of one being irritated with the other. There's never been one instance of disagreement between the two of them. There's never been one instance of opposition—one opposing the other; never, ever for all eternity. When you think about that, you talk about on a human level, we view that as a miracle; based on our experience as humans. When you share the same Spirit, you have the same goals, you have the same motivations, you have the same thoughts, you have the same deeds and then you have a relationship where Jesus has no trouble saying;

My Father is greater than I.

I am just here to keep Him happy and do what He wants. We should follow that example.

Could any humans accomplished what the Father and the Son have accomplished for eternity? Never a cross word ever? Never coming into conflict ever? Of course not, but we can emulate that. We can copy that; we can see to approach that—Jesus' relationship with His Father. But it can only be accomplished one way and that is through the Holy Spirit. That's what keeps the Father and the Son in perfect unity. If we exercise the Holy Spirit and are filled with the Holy Spirit we will likewise be in perfect harmony and unity—absolutely. If we exercise the Holy Spirit in us, in our relationship with our Father and in all of our human relationships, we can approach the example of Jesus Christ. Of His perfect relationship with His Father.