

## Christian Essentials #3 Humility as a Way of Life

In the previous message we looked at the importance of walking in humility before God. We saw by doing so, **we will experience riches, honor and the fullness of life that Jesus intended for us to have.**

**Proverbs 22:3-5** - 3 The prudent see danger and take refuge, but the simple keep going and pay the penalty. **4 Humility is the fear of the Lord; its wages are riches and honor and life.** 5 In the paths of the wicked are snares and pitfalls, but those who would preserve their life stay far from them.

**This general observation** – that honoring and respecting the Lord brings benefits in this life.

- The book of **Proverbs** describes life the way it should be.
- It **does not** dwell much on the exceptions.

**Respect and serve the Lord!** Your reward will be wealth, a long life, and honor.

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In this message we will be looking at the aspect of walking in humility before others and in our service to God.

Walking in humility towards and our service to God is one of the essential characteristics the Christian must have operating in their life –

- **To be successful in all that we do in the kingdom.**
- The opposite of this would be walking in pride and arrogance in everything we do, **which brings us into a destructive path.**

**Proverbs 16:18** - *Pride goes before destruction*, And a haughty spirit before a fall.

- **Proud people** take little account of their weaknesses and **do not** anticipate stumbling blocks.
- They think they are **better and smarter** than other people.
- **When in this state of mind**, they are easily tripped up.
- Ironically, **proud people** seldom realize that pride is their problem,
- **Although others around them know it well...**

If we haven't come to that place in our lives where we have either humbled ourselves before God or have been humbled by Him,

- *pride will manifest itself in a myriad of ways:*
- In our areas of service in the body of Christ
- And in our relationships with one another.

Humility must be a way of life for us as Christians just as it was for Jesus.

*“Humility before God is nothing if not proved in humility before men.”*

**1 John 4:20 - Obedience by Faith** - If someone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?

- **It's easy to say we love God** when that love doesn't cost us anything more than weekly attendance at church services.
- **But the real test of our love for God** becomes evident in how we treat the people right in front of us.
- **Jesus' love reveals itself in** our compassion, our generosity, and our ability to listen to and help others.

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**Jesus Is Our Example of Humility - Humility as a Way of Life**

*In the book of Philippians, Paul exhorts us as believers to follow Jesus' example of humility. We are to be likeminded in Him or have the same attitude that he had.*

**Philippians 2:1-5 - Unity Through Humility**

2 Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, 2 fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord of one mind. 3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

**The Humbled and Exalted Christ** - 5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus,

- Many people, even Christians, live only to make a good impression on others.
- Or to please only themselves!!!
- **But selfish ambition and vain conceit bring discord.**

**Paul therefore stressed spiritual unity**, asking the Philippians to love one another, And to be one in spirit and purpose.

In this passage of Scripture, Paul deals with our humility in service and our humility in the manner in which we are to relate to one another in the body of Christ.

- **Caring for others** as if their problems were ours, **we demonstrate Christ's example** of putting others first, and we experience unity.

**Matthew 11:28-30** - 28 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

**Jesus offers rest to those who come to him in childlike faith.**

- Jesus invites **all people**, ***not*** just the wise and clever.
- **Humble people can be free** from a "***try harder, do more***" religion.
- **To find rest**, people must **throw off** the yoke of **burdens and legalism**.

**Jesus Is Our Example of Humility:**

### **1. The Example of Jesus Washing the Disciple's Feet**

***Jesus washes the disciples' feet – He gets up and takes off his outer garment -***

**John 13:5** 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 13:12-16** So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? <sup>13</sup>"You call me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. <sup>14</sup>"If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup>"For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. <sup>16</sup>"Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him.

- Jesus **did not** wash his disciples' feet just to get them to show greater hospitality to each other.
- His far greater goal was **to extend his mission on earth** after he was gone.

These men were to move into the world serving God, serving each other, and serving all people to whom they would take the message of salvation.

### Other Examples of Jesus' Humility.

John 6:38 "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

- Jesus did not work independently of God the Father but in union with him.
- This should give us even more assurance of being welcomed into **God's presence** and being protected by him.
- Jesus' purpose was to do the will of God, not to satisfy his own human desires.
- **When we follow Jesus, we should have the same purpose!**

John 14:10 "Do you not believe that I am in the father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.

### These words show us the deepest roots of Christ's life and work

- They teach us what the essential nature and life is of ***the redemption which Jesus accomplished and now communicates*** – it is this –
- He was nothing that God might be all.

***"Humility is nothing but the disappearance of self in the vision that God is all."***

- **Humility** is our service to God and others and **allows God to be all.**
- **Humility** surrenders itself to the divine working of God.

It will be through humility that the earth will be filled with the fullness of God, who fills all in all.

Ephesians 1:22-23 And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, <sup>23</sup>**which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.**

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## Humility in our Servanthood - Humility as a Way of Life

Just as Jesus came to serve and give His life a ransom for many, this is how God desires we walk in humility.

- We must lose ourselves in the humility and Servanthood of Christ.

**Matthew 16:25** "For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

- Real discipleship implies real commitment – pledging our whole existence to God's service.
- When we give our lives in service to Jesus, we discover the real purpose of living!

**Have you lost your life in humility, or are you still trying hang on to your pride and ego?**

**Matthew 20:25-28** But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. <sup>26</sup>"Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. <sup>27</sup>"**And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave; <sup>28</sup>just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."**

Jesus described leadership from a new perspective.

- Instead of using people, we are to serve them.
- Jesus' mission was to serve others and to give his life away.
- A real leader has a servant's heart!!!!

## A Contrast of Attitudes in Ministry between Pride & Humility

**Romans 16:18** For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.

- Watch out for those who lead you away from the Truth.
- For such people are NOT serving our Lord, rather their own interest.

The final chapter of Romans encapsulates Paul’s exhortation against **false teachers**, stressing their destructive nature within the Christian community.

He describes **these deceptive individuals** as those who *serve “their own belly,”* rather than submitting to the Lordship of Christ.

**Galatians 5:13 - Life by the Spirit** - You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge **the flesh**; rather, serve one another humbly in love.

- **Galatians 5:13** In contexts like this, ***the Greek word for flesh*** (sarx). ***Flesh - Often refers to the sinful state of human beings, Often presented as a power in opposition to the Spirit.***

| <b><u>Humility in Serving</u></b>  | <b><u>Pride in Serving</u></b>  |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Willing to serve wherever the need is and to meet the needs of those around you.</li> <li>• Sees the importance of small duties we are asked to perform.</li> <li>• A desire to make others successful.</li> <li>• A desire to show love and mercy of God to those who need it.</li> <li>• A desire to unite family members under Christ’s Lordship.</li> <li>• A desire to help the spiritually sick, poor and oppressed.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full of selfish ambition and hidden agendas.</li> <li>• A desire for power.</li> <li>• A desire for promotion.</li> <li>• Expresses a sense of self-importance.</li> <li>• Needs to have a title to be fully motivated.</li> <li>• Expresses authority in a domineering manner.</li> <li>• Shows off his abilities and talents</li> <li>• Is wise in his own eyes – mocks and undermines authority.</li> </ul> |

***Because Christ humbled Himself before God, God was ever before Him.***

- ***He found it possible to humble Himself before men too; and to be the servant of all.***
- ***This is true self-denial to which we are called; the acknowledgement that self has nothing good in it except as an empty vessel which God must fill.***

## Humility in Our Relationships - Humility as a Way of Life

One of the things *Jesus desires for us* **is to come into a genuine humility in our relationships we have with other members of His body.**

**Ephesians 4:1-3** I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, <sup>2</sup>**with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, <sup>3</sup>endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.**

**What is lowliness of mind?** - Lowliness of mind is when **we see ourselves to be nothing**, to let God be all.

- When this happens, **the desire to compare yourself with others is gone.**

**To build unity is one of the Holy Spirit's important roles.**

- **He leads, but we must be willing to be lead and to do our part to keep the peace.**
- **We do that by focusing on God, NOT on ourselves.**

**Romans 12:16** Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. **Do not be wise in your own opinion.**

**CLOSE:**

### **A Contrast of Attitudes in our Relationships with Others**

**Colossians 3:12-13** - God loves you and has chosen you as his own special people. So be gentle, kind, humble, meek, and patient. <sup>13</sup> Put up with each other, and forgive anyone who does you wrong, **just as Christ has forgiven you.**

**Ephesians 4:31-32** - <sup>31</sup> Stop being bitter and angry and mad at others. Don't yell at one another or curse each other or ever be rude. <sup>32</sup> Instead, be kind and merciful, and forgive others, **just as God forgave you because of Christ.**

**Proverbs 13:10** - Too much pride causes trouble. Be sensible and take advice.

**Let's keep in mind that our goal is to build the body of Christ up through our humility so that we can all be encouraged nurtured and strengthened in Christ.**