

Christian Humility

July 8, 2012

PHILIPPIANS 2:1-11

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Core Competency:

Humility- I choose to esteem others above myself.

Do nothing out of rivalry or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves. Everyone should look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. (Philippians 2:3-4)

Introduction

A former missionary told the story of two rugged, powerful mountain goats who met on a narrow pathway joining two mountain ridges. On one side was a chasm 1,000 feet deep; on the other, a steep cliff rising straight up. So narrow was the trail that there was no room to turn around, and the goats could not back up without falling. What would they do? Finally, instead of fighting for the right to pass, one of the goats knelt down and made himself as flat as possible. The other goat then walked over him, and they both proceeded safely. —D C Egner

Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? The words God uses to communicate matters so pay close attention to the details emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ DISCOVER His Word

What does God MEAN? Answer the questions and then bring to your COMMUNITY GROUP to discover and discuss with others.

❸ LIVE His Word

How does this truth FIT? God's word is lived in real life so engage with truth in your LIFE GROUP.

This is a great picture of humility. In Philippians 2, Paul cites the most shocking example of humility possible. Jesus, part of the Divine Trinity, came to earth as a man. In so doing, he elevated our welfare above his own, as God's exalted Son. He saw us trapped between our sin and God's righteousness with no way to help ourselves. He considered us as more significant than His rightful place in heaven. Ultimately, His sacrifice paid for our sins and opened the door so that we could have an eternal relationship with God.

As believers, growing in this relationship, we are called to be conformed to the image of Christ. We are to imitate His example of humility. Like Jesus, we are to willingly surrender our rights, our privileges, our interests and to humbly love and serve others. As you obey, you will discover the great truth that Jesus described in Matthew 16:25, that "...whoever loses his life for my sake, will find it."

This Week

This week, remember that it is because of Christ's humble submission that you were saved. What is possible in your life if you, in humble obedience, allow God to transform your heart?

① EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? The words God uses to communicate matters so pay close attention to the details emphasized or repeated in the passage:

Philippians 2:1-11

¹ If then there is any encouragement in Christ, if any consolation of love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any affection and mercy,

² fulfill my joy by thinking the same way, having the same love, sharing the same feelings, focusing on one goal.

³ Do nothing out of rivalry or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves.

⁴ Everyone should look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

⁵ Make your own attitude that of Christ Jesus,

⁶ who, existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God as something to be used for His

own advantage.

⁷ Instead He emptied Himself by assuming the form of a slave, taking on the likeness of men. And when He had come as a man in His external form,

⁸ He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death— even to death on a cross.

⁹ For this reason God highly exalted Him and gave Him the name that is above every name,

¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow — of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth —

¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

② DISCOVER His Word

What does God MEAN? Answer the following questions and then bring to your COMMUNITY GROUP to discover and discuss with others.

- Restate, in your own words, verses 1-2 using positive phrasing. (You might start with “*Since*” or “*Because*.”)
 - What is it that Paul is asking of the Philippians and why is it important?
- What does it mean to consider others as more important than yourself (verse 4)? Be specific about any actions that might result from this perspective. How might God be calling you to consider _____ (your spouse, your co-worker, your friend, your neighbor) as more important than yourself? Take time this week and ask God to bring to mind someone to fill in the blank.
- What is the general meaning of humility? Use the dictionary if desired. What, if anything, is the opposite of humility? Explain.
- What do you think it meant for Jesus to “empty himself,” and in what area or areas might God be calling you to empty yourself? Please be as specific as possible.

5. a) From verse 8, Jesus humbled himself by becoming obedient. Does obedience to God *require* humility? Explain your answer.

b) Does true humility always result in obedience? Explain your answer.

c) Is disobedience a form of pride? Explain your answer.
6. Using Christ's example (and your answers to questions 4-5), expand the definition of humility. Also, consider whether humility is an action, an attitude or both.
7. In what types of situations do you find it difficult to remain humble? What are barriers to true humility in your life? What, if anything, can you do about it?
8. What were the results of Jesus' humility? (When you are done answering this question, take time to praise God for who He is, for what He has done, and for the benefit for you and all humanity.)

Sermon Notes:

3LIVE His Word

How does this truth FIT? God's word is lived in real life so engage with truth in your LIFEGROUP.

For Thought and Discussion: What is the difference between unity and uniformity? What would happen if all Christians had the same opinions and tastes?

30 CORE Competencies

10 Core Beliefs

Trinity *2 Corinthians 13:14*

I believe the God of the Bible is the only true God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Salvation by Grace *Ephesians 2:8-9* I believe a person comes into a right relationship with God by His grace, through faith in Jesus Christ.

Authority of the Bible *2 Timothy 3:16-17*

I believe the Bible is the Word of God and has the right to command my belief and action.

Personal God *Psalms 121:1-2*

I believe God is involved in and cares about my daily life.

Identity in Christ *John 1:12*

I believe I am significant because of my position as a child of God.

Church *Ephesians 4:15-16*

I believe the church is God's primary way to accomplish His purposes on earth today.

Humanity *John 3:16*

I believe all people are loved by God and need Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Compassion *Psalms 82:3-4*

I believe God calls all Christians to show compassion to those in need.

Eternity *John 14:1-4*

I believe there is a heaven and a hell and that Jesus Christ is returning to judge the earth and to establish His eternal kingdom.

Stewardship *1 Timothy 6:17-19*

I believe that everything I am or own belongs to God.

10 Core Practices

Worship *Psalms 95:1-7*

I worship God for who He is and what He has done for me.

Prayer *Psalms 66:16-20*

I pray to God to know Him, to lay my request before Him and to find direction for my daily life.

Bible Study *Hebrews 4:12*

I read the Bible to know God, the truth, and to find direction for my daily life.

Single-mindedness *Matthew 6:33* I focus on God and His priorities for my life.

Spiritual Gifts *Romans 12:4-6*

I know and use my spiritual gifts to accomplish

God's purposes.

Biblical Community *Acts 2:44-47*

I live life with other Christians to accomplish God's purposes in the world.

Giving Away My Time *Colossians 3:17*

I give away my time to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away God's Money *2 Corinthians 8:7*

I give away God's money to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away My Faith *Ephesians 6:19-20*

I give away my faith to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away My Life *Romans 12:1*

I give away my life to fulfill God's purposes.

10 Core Virtues

Joy *John 15:11*

I have inner contentment and purpose in spite of my circumstances.

Peace *Philippians 4:6-7*

I am free from anxiety because things are right between God, me, and others.

Faithfulness *Proverbs 3:3-4*

I demonstrate loyalty in my relationships with others in response to God's loyalty to me.

Self-Control *Titus 2:11-13*

I have the power, through Christ, to control myself.

Humility *Philippians 2:3, 4*

I choose to esteem others above myself.

Love *1 John 4:10-12*

I sacrificially and unconditionally love and forgive others.

Patience *Proverbs 14:29*

I endure patiently under the unavoidable pressures of life.

Kindness/Goodness *1 Thess. 5:15*

I choose to do the right things in my relationships with others.

Gentleness *Philippians 4:5*

I am thoughtful, considerate and calm in dealing with others.

Hope *Hebrews 6:19-20*

I can cope with the hardships of life and with death because of the hope I have in Jesus Christ