



Sermon Notes and Study Questions

Live Humbly

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion,² then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves,⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

⁵ In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

⁶ Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God
something to be used to his
own advantage;

⁷ rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature of a
servant,
being made in human likeness.

⁸ And being found in appearance as a
man,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross!

⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the
highest place
and gave him the name that is above
every name,

¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee
should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the
earth,

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

Philippians 2:1-11

Notes:

Introduction: What inspires you to become better?

What is Humility?

- It is a distinctly Christian Call

How do we choose the way of humility?

- Adopt the mindset of a servant
- Focus more on action than self-perception
- Follow Jesus' example

What is Humility? (Take 2)

- Humility is the virtue that places us in the best position to love.

Is Pursuing Humility worth the effort?

- The Power of the Cross
- Humility's Reward

Connecting Questions

1. Who is someone that inspires you to become a better person? What is it that inspires you?
2. What are situations or experiences that tend to discourage you to give up and not keep pushing forward?
3. Who is somebody in your life that has been an example of humility?

Discussion Questions:

1. How should we think biblically about pride? Are all forms of pride sin? If not, when is pride appropriate?
2. A number of definitions were given to explain the New Testament teaching on humility. Humility is:
 - A distinctly Christian Call
 - A mindset of a servant that moves us to action (it isn't really thinking of ourselves as being of lesser value)
 - The way of Jesus Christ
 - Placing us in a frame of mind to act in love towards others

As you think about these different aspects of humility, how does this help you understand Paul's instructions in Philippians 2:1-11 and what he really means by calling us to have the mindset of humility?

3. Ralph said that Paul's call to humility tilts toward action, how we are to conduct ourselves, and not about thinking of ourselves as being lesser than others. Jesus is described as being humble. What do you think Jesus thought about himself?
4. From reading Philippians 2:1-11, what are some actions that would characterize a truly humble person?
5. Why is stooping to help others a way of getting closer to Jesus?
6. What gets in the way of growing in humility?
7. In the story about the two football teams, what stood out to you of what happened? How does that story help illustrate Paul's call to have the mindset of humility?

8. Paul points to the example of Jesus Christ to inspire us to walk the path of humility. How does Jesus' actions demonstrate the mindset of a servant? How did his actions position him to demonstrate his love for us? What stories or teaching can you think of that demonstrate Jesus' desire for us to follow after him in humility?
9. Paul not only points to Paul's examples, but he also reminds us that Jesus was rewarded for walking the path of humility. If we lower ourselves, we put ourselves in the position for God to pick us up. See if your group could come up with a compelling explanation for a non-Christian why the way of humility will lead to a more and better life.
10. What do you think God wants you to respond to the teaching of His Word?

Going Deeper into Scripture

Read Mark 10:35-45

Mark 10:35–45 (NIV)

11. Why did James and John want to sit on Jesus' left and right when He comes into His kingdom?
12. In the kingdom of God, power is made perfect in weakness. John and James wanted power and glory but they did not understand that the way of power and glory is through suffering. With this in mind, explain the conversation between Jesus and the sons of Zebedee in verses 38-40.
13. How did the gentiles rule over their people?
14. What is true greatness in the kingdom of God?
15. What do you think is Jesus' attitude towards service? Towards dying for us?
16. How do we become more like Jesus in our attitude towards serving and suffering in Jesus' name?