

Week 25

Humility

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.”- Phil 2:3

In the passage quoted above, humility means adopting an attitude of serving others rather than serving self. Generally speaking, the person of greater honor is served by the person of less honor. Just after this passage in Phil 2, Paul describes how Jesus, the one of greatest honor, voluntarily stepped down from his position as God to serve humanity. Jesus voluntary serve-the-other attitude becomes a pattern and example for us to consider others worthy of our service.

Humility is both an outward expression and an inward attitude. As an outward expression, humility means abandoning our own wants, wishes, preferences and needs for the sake of what is good for others. As an attitude, humility involves how we think about ourselves as well as how we think about others. The opposite of humility is pride, which is most often associated with the Greek word hubris. To the Greeks, pride or hubris meant going against the order of the gods, not accepting or recognizing the reality of your existence. If humility is the opposite of pride, then humility involves accepting and acknowledging the reality of our existence and accepting who we are.

There are two common distortions involving humility. On the one hand, I can think too little of myself resulting in a self-deprecating inferiority complex. On the other hand, I can think too much of myself resulting in false humility, a belief that I am better masked under a thin veneer of humble language. Real humility begins by recognizing that we are highly valued by God, the pinnacle of His creation, the object of His love and the focus of His Salvation. Then, fully recognizing his love for us, we voluntarily give up our claim to any of the benefits associated with that status. We voluntarily step down for the sake of serving others. That is the humility that honors Jesus’ example.

The spiritual discipline of humility must begin by fully embracing our status as “God’s beloved.” Then willingly stooping to serve.

This Week

- Reflect on how you think about yourself. Do you more often think of yourself as “worthless” or “worthy”? If you find that you think of yourself as basically “worthless,” then repent of the sin of pride, the failure to recognize how much God loves you. If you think of yourself as “worthy,” then repent of the sin of pride, the failure to recognize your common status as a sinner along with all of humanity.
- Then find places to “consider others better than yourself.” Put it into practice in your conversations, decisions, and actions.

Week 25

Jun 20-26

Sun	<i>What specific action can you do this week related to your growth goals?</i>			20
Father's Day	Encourage One Another (6)			
Mon	Judg 5	Phil 4	Psa 119:17-24	21
Tue	Judg 6	Col 1	Psa 119:25-32	22
Wed	Judg 7,8	Col 2	Psa 119:33-40	23
Thr	Judg 9	Col 3	Psa 119:41-48	24
Fri	Judg 10,11	Col 4	Psa 119:49-56	25
Sat				26