

11. Humility/Love (Mind of Christ)

Humility has become probably one of the most forgotten virtues of our time. We are encouraged by others around us, including well-meaning Christians, to take pride in ourselves and our abilities. Those struggling are often encouraged to “take pride in who we are.” We are reminded by some that “We must take pride in ourselves if we expect anyone else to the same.” I have even heard someone say that they are taking pride in their new found humility. All of this, of course, is contrary to God’s Word. As Christians we are encouraged by the Apostle Paul to, “***Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus***” (Philippians 2:3-5 NKJV).

This proves most difficult to us for a number of reasons. The first is the fact that sin has made us totally self centered and to even consider another person’s well being is a stretch. To place them in a position of importance above ourselves is almost out of the question. Second is the fact that most of us have been dealing with rejection, which causes us to attempt to prove to ourselves and everyone else that we aren’t as bad as we appear. And last but not least, Christian and secular bookstores are filled with self -help books that hinder the Victorious Christian Life rather that promote it. The simple reason for saying this is that it is required of all of us to die to self if we are to reckon ourselves dead to sin. Any attempts to improve on self merely prolongs the process of dying.

The only true way to nurture an attitude of humility is to learn to serve others. This cannot be in a way that is orchestrated by us, but rather ordained by God. No matter what our station in life, we need to serve others, preferably in subordinate stations. This is even a major necessity in leadership positions. The greatest example of functional subordination is the example of our Lord, who as the Creator of mankind became dependent, as a baby, on His own creation. ***And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross*** (Philippians 2:8 NKJV).

This is the example that we are called to follow in order to walk on this earth as disciples of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

11. Humility

Meditation passages for the week – Philippians 2:1-10

Humility - What does it look like?

Practical Humility is:

1. **Lowering** our opinion of ourselves
 - A. By not being **critical** of others or **looking** down on them (Philippians 2:7)
 - B. By not having an **exalted opinion** of ourselves (**Romans 12:1-3** two parts)
 - C. By realizing that we are not always **right** (**Jeremiah 10:23**)
2. **Recognizing** our place before God
 - A. He has **created** us. (**Psalm 100:3**)
 - B. He has **brought** us to the place where we now stand (Deuteronomy 15:15)
 - C. He has the **right** to direct our steps (Proverbs 3:5-7)
3. **Humbling** ourselves before others
 - A. The **greatest** before God is the **least** among men (**Matthew 23:11-12**).
 - B. We were saved to **serve God** (Luke 1:74-75)
 - C. We were saved to **serve others** (**Galatians 5:13**)
4. **Increasing** our ability to love
 - A. Love means not always **defending** ourselves (1 Corinthians 13:3-4)
 - B. Love desires the **best** for **others** (1 Corinthians 13:5-6)
 - C. Love **stands up** under the most difficult of trials (1 Corinthians 13:7-8)
5. Love for others is the **mark** of a **true believer** (1 John 3:14)
6. Love for others is **proof** of our Love for God. (**1 John 4:20**)
7. Love brings **joy** to fellow believers (Philemon 1:7)