



## **Imitate Jesus: Humility**

### **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March Unity Hill (Benji)**

#### **Philippians 2:1-11**

“We must view humility as one of the most essential things that characterizes true Christianity.” Jonathan Edwards

#### **3 A’S OF HUMILITY: CHRIST**

**Attitude:** Philippians 2v5 “have the same attitude as Christ”, v7 “he emptied himself”.

**Ambition:** Philippians 2v 8 “he was obedient even to death on a cross”. Matt 20:28: “just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

**Authority:** “he didn’t consider equality with God as something to be exploited” (v6)

#### **3 A’S OF PRIDE: US**

**Attitude:** Arrogant, self-interested (Phil 2:4a) and self-made.

**Ambition:** selfish and conceited (Phil 2:3), obedient to no-one

Matthew 20:20-28 “whoever wants to be great among you must be your servant”

**Authority** abuse of power seeking to “lord it over others” Matt 20:25

**“Therefore God highly exalted him” Phil 22:9**

#### **HUMILITY DIAGNOSTIC:**

- When’s the last time you accepted advice/feedback?
- When is the last time you submitted and acted out of obedience maybe even against your will?
- Do you serve others weekly?
- When have you “withdrawn power”?
- When have you taken an opportunity to lift others up or God at the expense of yourself?

- Do you find yourself ‘ranking’ others and yourself?
- Do you feel the need to prove yourself in new circles?
- What are you willing to let go of for God?
- Do you let others help you?

#### **TIPS TO CULTIVATE HUMILITY AND WEAKEN PRIDE**

(adapted from C.J. Mahaney)

##### **ALWAYS:**

1. Reflect on the wonder of the cross of Christ.

##### **AS EACH DAY BEGINS:**

1. Acknowledge your dependence upon God.
2. Express gratefulness to God.
3. Practice spiritual disciplines- prayer, studying scripture, worship, service.
4. Cast your cares upon Him, for He cares for you.

##### **AS EACH DAY ENDS:**

1. Transfer the glory to God.
2. Receive the gift of sleep from God and acknowledge His purpose for sleep.

##### **FOR SPECIAL FOCUS:**

1. Study the attributes of God, grace and sin.
2. Laugh often, and laugh often at yourself.

##### **THROUGHOUT THE DAYS AND WEEKS:**

1. Identify evidences of grace in others.
2. Encourage and serve others each day.
3. Invite and pursue feedback and correction.
4. Respond humbly to trials.

**Prayer** Thank You for the wonderful example of true humility seen in the life and ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ, who despite being God incarnate, lived His life in humble submission to You. Help me not to do anything out of selfish ambition or foolish vanity, but rather develop the godly grace to regard the needs and desires of God and others as being more important than my own. Amen