

Flint Hills Bible Church
Soul Care Sunday School
Pride and Humility pt. 3

I. What is humility?

1. How might our culture define humility?
2. What comes to mind when you hear the word humble?

Stuart Scott defines humility as **“The mindset of Christ (a servant’s mindset): a focus on God and others, a pursuit of the recognition and the exaltation of God and a desire to glorify and please God in all things and by all things He has given.”** (pg 19-20)

I have been guilty of wrong thoughts of humility and wrong attitudes toward it. I wonder how many of us can relate to these humility myths:

Myth number 1: Humility is a personality trait.

3. What is wrong with this?

Myth number 2: Humility is a way for God to “get you.” ‘Don’t pray for humility, because you may get what you ask for!’

4. What is wrong with this?

Myth number 3: Humility is optional - it’s something that is nice if you have it, but if you don’t that’s ok too.

5. What is wrong with this?

As we make our way through the lesson this morning, reflect on the attitudes and thoughts you have had concerning humility. Do you believe these myths? Do you seek humility and cultivate it as you should?

II. How does God Feel about humility?

After reading the following texts, identify which myth is refuted.

Isaiah 66:1-2

Thus says the LORD: Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool; what is the house that you would build for me, and what is the place of my rest? 2 All these things my hand has made, and so all these things came to be, declares the LORD. But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word.

Psalm 51:17

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart , O God, you will not despise.

Micah 6:8

He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with you God?

See also: **James 3:13-14, 4:6-10**

III. The Humility of Christ

As we read this well known passage about Christ's condescension, note the depths to which Christ willingly humbled himself.

Philippians 2:5-11

5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, 3 being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

6. What did Christ do to humble himself?

7. In the context of unity in the local body of Christ, why does Paul spend so much time on having a humble attitude?

Murray has this to say of Christ's humility:

"What is the incarnation but His heavenly humility, His emptying himself and becoming man? What is His life on earth but humility; His taking the form of a servant? And what is His atonement but humility? "He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death." And what is His ascension and His glory, but humility exalted to the throne and crowned with glory? "He humbled Himself, therefore God highly exalted Him."

Our Lord Jesus Christ is the ultimate model of humility. He humbled himself to come and save an unworthy, ungrateful people. Next we will read about how Jesus walked in humility during his time on earth

Take note of the way Jesus talks about his ministry and mission

John 5:19

19 So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise.

30 "I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me.

John 14:10

Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works.

8. What do Jesus' statements reveal about His actions, motivations, and words?

Jesus' entire life and ministry was in complete submission to God the Father. His own testimony and witness about himself was that the Father directed every action, every judgement, and every word.

IV. Humility: the theme of Christ's teaching

Next we will consider Christ's humility reflected in the way he taught His disciples and the crowds that were gathered to hear Him.

Matthew 5:2-5

2 And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

5 "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

9. As we think about these first three beatitudes, it is good to reflect on what they mean and to honestly evaluate whether or not these qualities are in your own life.

Poor in spirit:

Those who mourn:

The meek:

Those who are humble live with a continual awareness of God's place in our lives and hearts. We are to always think about how God is working in the circumstances of our lives, and be constantly aware of our desperate need for his work in and through us.

Matthew 11:25-30

28 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

10. Jesus is teaching us about repentance. What connection do you see between coming to Christ and humility?
11. Consider someone in your family or sphere of influence who is weary and heavy laden (or maybe yourself). How could you counsel this person from this passage? What other passages would you go to?

Matthew 20:25-28

25 But Jesus called them to him and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. **26** It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, **27** and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, **28** even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

12. Should a humble person strive for greatness?

13. Describe the contrast between the Gentiles’ version of greatness and Jesus’s version of greatness.

Matthew 8:5-10

5 When he had entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to him, appealing to him, **6** “Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, suffering terribly.” **7** And he said to him, “I will come and heal him.” **8** But the centurion replied, “Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. **9** For I too am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. And I say to one, ‘Go,’ and he goes, and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes, and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.” **10** When Jesus heard this, he marveled and said to those who followed him, “Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel have I found such faith.

14. How is the Centurion’s humility displayed in this text?

15. What is Christ’s response to his humble request?

16. How is the Syrophenecian Woman in Matthew 15:25-28 similar to the Centurion?

Now let's contrast these two Gentiles with the crowd in Mark 6:1-6

He went away from there and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. 2 And on the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished, saying, "Where did this man get these things? What is the wisdom given to him? How are such mighty works done by his hands? 3 Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. 4 And Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household." 5 And he could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them. 6 And he marveled because of their unbelief.

17. What are some differences between the people in the Lord's hometown, and the Centurion/Canaanite woman?

18. Can we infer the reason we have not seen a spiritual revival in America from the teaching of this text? What about in our city, in our church, and in our families?

Our Lord obviously demonstrated and taught the importance of humility in the lives of His followers. In the next section we are going to take a closer look at the role humility plays in salvation and sanctification

V. The Humility of the Christian

a. Humility and Salvation

The Gospel is the message of salvation. It is the only hope that you and I have of being reconciled to God. How does humility affect our response to the gospel?

Romans 3:9-18

19. How does a proud heart respond to this text? How does a humble heart respond?

Romans 3:19-28

20. After reading this text, why do you think that the way of salvation is a narrow path and that there are few who find it? (Matt. 7:13-14)

*See also Romans 5:6-8, Ephesians 2:1-10, Titus 3:3-7

b. Humility and Sanctification

Colossians 3:12-15

12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, 13 bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. 14 And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. 15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

21. How does humility influence our interactions with brothers and sisters in Christ?

VI. Practical steps for cultivating humility

Self assessment: It may be helpful at this point to consider how we can determine our current growth in humility. Read these texts and ask the Holy Spirit for conviction. Give yourself a grade, and then ask close friends, your spouse, co-workers, extended family, in-laws, etc. to give you some feedback. Here are a few key indicators of humility:

Love: see 1 Corinthians 13, Galatians 5:13. Do you love others? Is your service to others and the church motivated by love for them? If you don't love others, guess what the primary reason is...PRIDE

Proper response to correction and discipline: Do you get offended or grow in holiness: see Romans 12:1, Hebrews 12:5-10, 14-15

Wisdom: see Proverbs 1:1-7, 11:2, James 3:13-17 are you wise? What is the necessary foundation of wisdom?

Trust in the sovereignty of God: see 1 Peter 2:21-25

Cultivating Humility: after a self assessment (which will be humbling in itself!) here are some habits and practices to incorporate in our lives. These, by God's grace, will allow us to grow in the grace of humility.

- a. Pray Pray Pray! - Ask the Holy Spirit for conviction of proud actions and motivations and confess your dependence on Him for growth in humility - Prov. 5:21, Psalm 139:24
- b. Reflect daily on the Cross of Christ - 2 Cor. 5:21, Rom. 5:6-8
- c. Seek criticism and receive it! Prov. 27:6
- d. Study the doctrine of sin
- e. Study the attributes of God
- f. Be thankful
- g. Be content 1 Tim. 6:6
- h. Cultivate an eternal mindset: Col. 3
- i. Intentionally seek to encourage brothers and sisters in Christ, especially those who you are tempted to be critical of

Summary: How important is humility? I trust that our study has demonstrated the proper place humility is to have in our daily lives as well as the attention and effort we are to give to its cultivation. Our only hope to banish pride and replace it with humility is to confess our desperate dependence on our faithful and kind God to do this miracle in us. We long for the day when He will complete His perfect humility in us!