

SESSION FIVE

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Small Groups
Humility

Humility

Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it's thinking of yourself less.
—C.S. Lewis

Pride must die in you, or nothing of heaven can live in you.
—Andrew Murray

INTRODUCTION

At Fellowship we talk a lot about leadership. Our mission statement says that we are to “produce and release spiritual leaders who know and express the authentic Christ to Northwest Arkansas and the world.” What kind of spiritual leader can express the authentic Christ? Only a humble servant-leader can authentically express Jesus Christ.

The theme of humility appears almost 100 times in the Bible. When we consider who we are in light of who God is, the result is humble worship. In the economy of Christ, the exalted are humbled, and the humble are exalted (Luke 14:11). As we encounter the topic of humility, service, and giving, allow the Lord to speak into your heart and mind about all of the subjects we have covered so far and how they are all undergirded by humility.

Who is the most humble person you have known? What was it about that person that makes them come to mind when you think of genuine humility?

Jesus knew the disciples had been arguing among themselves as they walked along the road. Once they arrived at their destination, He confronted them about it.

And they came to Capernaum. And when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you discussing on the way?”³⁴ But they kept silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest.

³⁵ *And he sat down and called the twelve. And he said to them, "If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all."*—Mark 9:33-35

1. How does Jesus define greatness?
2. In what way would you say that Jesus' definition of greatness is different from the world's definition of greatness?

Paul encouraged the church at Philippi to have a certain attitude toward each other in Philippians 2:3-8:

Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, 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.

1. In what ways do Paul's encouragements run counter to the values of our culture?

Have someone else continue the account in John 13 reading verses 12-16:

When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, “Do you understand what I have done to you?”¹³ You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am.¹⁴ If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet.¹⁵ For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.¹⁶ Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.

2. What lesson did Jesus want the disciples to learn from this experience?
3. What are some ways we “wash feet” today? How can we practically follow Jesus’ example of being a servant?

Besides service, another grace that a humble spirit allows us to enjoy is the grace of giving. Paul wrote this passage about the Macedonian church (which was very poor) and their generous gift to the Jerusalem church which had been hit hard by a famine.

In 1 Peter 2:16, Peter writes “Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.”

1. What are some things we can do to live as servants of God?
2. How does the freedom we have in Christ allow us to happily live as servants of others? Why is "freedom" necessary for humility, serving, and giving?

James 2:15-16 speaks of the connection between service and giving:

If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that?

And Acts 20:35 says that Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

1. How are generosity and service tied to humility?
Where is the Lord calling you to die to self and be more humble?

2. How is the Lord convicting you about your need to give? Is it in terms of your time, your talent, or your treasure?

Worship and giving flow from a humble heart that is grateful for what God has given in Jesus Christ. Humility corresponds with our Membership Covenant Point on "Support."

MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

Support:

To support, through worshipful giving, the financial obligations and commitments of the church by practicing generosity and Biblical stewardship.
—(2 Cor 8:7)