

## Give God the Glory

Philippians 2:3-13

6/ 18/ 06

### Intro

This week we begin our study on the book of Philippians. Paul wrote this letter to the church in Philippi while he was in prison. It's a very personal letter. It's less filled with doctrine than other letters, but rather has more encouragement to live in godly joy in the midst of the storms and stresses of life.

In chapter 2, Paul is teaching us about the importance of humility in our Christian walk. Why? Because God knows that it is a big part of finding joy and Christian victory in our lives here on earth.

The amazing part of this is that Christ himself is the greatest example of humility there is. If anyone had reason for not having humility it would be Jesus, but in fact, He is our example because there is none more humble than Christ.

### **These are the principles of humility that we learn from Christ's example.**

#### **I. We Need Christ-like Humility**

- Paul tells us that humility is regarding others as more important than ourselves.

**Illus – It's considering the impact of our words on others before we say it.**

- I've discovered that humility is the true mark of Christian maturity.

#### A. He gives us the power to change

- God wants to see our lives changed. He is asking for some radical things in us to be different.
- The miracle of believing in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior is how people are changed.
- Many people have broken and messed up lives, and then they place their faith in God and transformation begins in their lives.

**App – But he doesn't just tell us to change. He...**

- **gives us the power to change;**
- **gives us an example of what He desires to see in our lives.**

**John 13:12-15, So when He had washed their feet, and taken His garments and reclined at the table again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you."**

- he washed **Peter's** feet, knowing he would deny Him
- He washed **Thomas'** feet, knowing he would doubt Him.
- He washed **Judas'** feet knowing he would betray Him.

#### B. Do nothing from selfishness

- It's not about me. That's a hard one to accept. Because life starts out completely about us

**Illus – We started out in life always getting our way. When we were hungry, they fed us, when we wanted affection; all we had to do was to be cute...**

- But now the Lord tells us that we should not do anything from selfishness or empty conceit.
- This is because selfishness and empty conceit do not make us happy.

**James 3:16-17, For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.**

- Imagine how terrible life would be if everyone was completely selfish and wonderful life would be if everyone were completely humble.

## **II. Humility is Seen in Obedience**

- Christ was obedient even to the point of death on a cross.

### A. Obedience is mastering our desires

- Jesus' obedience was seen so clearly when He prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane.

**Luke 22:41-42, And He withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and began to pray, saying, "Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done."**

- Pride has to have its own way, but humility is seen in a willingness to let go of that and becoming obedient to what God wants in our lives.

**APP – there will be many opportunities in life to choose between your way and God's way and they won't be the same.**

- The disciples had brought Jesus some food, but His response was...

**John 4:34-35, Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work."**

### B. It is God who is at work in you

- Vs 12-13, "work out your salvation with fear and trembling," Paul wrote, "for it is God who is at work in you."
- It is the truly humble Christian who understands that; God is the one who gave us our gifts and abilities, and He deserves all the glory.

**Illus – I love the expression, "I'm a self-made man!" What part did you make, I wonder?**

- It's the humble businessman who knows that.

**John 3:27, 30, John answered and said, "A man can receive nothing unless it has been given him from heaven... He must increase, but I must decrease."**

### III. Humility Brings Exaltation

#### A. God gives greater opportunity to give Him glory

- Jesus is the greatest example of this principle.
- Because he humbled Himself by becoming obedient, even to the point of death, God highly exalted Him.
- Humility and strength are found in the word – meekness. A.W. Tozer has captured the truth of humility and meekness very well...

**Illus-** *The meek man is not a human mouse afflicted with a sense of his own inferiority. Rather, he may be in his spiritual life as bold as a lion and as strong as Samson; but he has stopped being fooled about himself. He has accepted God's estimate of his own life. He knows he is as weak and helpless as God has declared him to be, but paradoxically, he knows at the same time that he is, in the sight of God, more important than angels. ... He knows well that the world will never see him as God sees him and he has stopped caring.*

-- A. W. Tozer in The Pursuit of God.

- Jesus taught this principle by using the parable of a man who was invited to a banquet...

**Luke 14:7-11 Do not the place of honor when you are invited to a feast.**

- The best thing we can do is to promote those around us.

➤ **It's the principle of the paradox, He who exalts others, will himself be exalted.**

#### B. He who exalts himself will be humbled

- The scripture tells us that God resists the proud.
- But he isn't the only one, frankly, everyone does.
- God has a way of keeping us humble. Just when we think it's all about us, God sees to it that we experience a humbling.

**Illus-** A pastor had conducted a funeral and was leading the procession to the graveside and became lost in thought...

**Illus-** A pastor was baptizing a rather portly woman on Easter and he was wearing hip waders...

- God knows that it's a question of the heart.
- This is also true in regards to answering our prayers...

**James 4:2-4, You do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.**

**Illus – Herod Agrippa was giving a speech and the crowd began to call out that he was a god, but he would not give God the glory, so he died instantly and was eaten by worms.**

Conclusion

**On humility all godly qualities are built.**