**Philippians Date of Delivery: November 17, 2024**

***Imitating Christ’s Humility*** *(3 of 7)*

**SERIES PRINCIPAL BIBLE VERSE:**

***3****Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, Philippians 2:3*

**LESSON OBJECTIVE:** Learning how to demonstrate humility in all we do by following the example of Jesus Christ.

***KEY POINT***: The importance of *defining the meaning to be humble like Christ*. (For us to practice the humility of Christ we must understand what it looks like and how it is described).

The objective above requires us to “*rethink*” what we value and how we appreciate the role models around us. *Quick question*: Is what we value driven by things that don’t reflect “humility”?

With this understanding, another key characteristic of humility is – being humble requires knowing more than its definition – it is something you model as a person. To be humble requires a willingness to put one’s own interests aside, and, instead, put others’ interests above himself-herself. Doing this requires patience and true submission.

As stated in Philippians 2:3 – “To be humble like Christ, is to put others’ interests above our own interests. We utilize the word “humility” in much of what we teach and the practices we strive to preach. This word does not occur very often in our day-to-day world. Most of the role models and heroes in our society do not push or encourage humility – it’s quite the opposite! Our world recognizes great achievement and high success based on what we value and strive for (we don’t take the time to recognize people who exhibit a high level of humility).

***Questions for consideration:***

1. Can you think of someone who exhibits humility by the way they lead their life? In what ways do they show humility?
2. Thinking of how we learn humility – Is it something learned from society, or learned from the example of Christ?

*Note to the Teacher (possible activity)*: This might be a good time to explore how people in the class learned humility – could be from their parents, a teacher, or their own individual study. It would be interesting to see and hear the different ways humility was learned.

**“Scriptures time”**

**Reading:** – it is recommended to read aloud the following scriptures (Philippians 2: 1-11). After reading let’s reflect on the teaching practiced by members of the Philippians church.

1. In verses 1-2 Paul ‘s joy for the Philippian church and their fellowship with the Holy Spirit included:
2. Being like-minded – really involving one’s heart, mind, feelings, attitudes, and will, not just saying “we are united.”
3. Having the same love
4. Being one in spirit and purpose

B. Paul encouraged the Philippian church to have a Christ-like attitude, which included: Phil. 2:3-8

 1. Being humble, not conceited

 2. Having a servant heart

 3. Obedient to God

C. Defining the Nature of Christ (2:5-11)

1. Not the normal Greek meaning for “being”-

2. This is no doubt the most important section in the letter to the Philippians – The Greek word is “morph”, meaning that Christ was in the “very nature, God.”

3. Jesus Christ possessed the essential nature of God, not taking this “to be grasped, meaning that Jesus did not have to “snatch” equality with God. It was already his, thus he could give it away.

4. He made himself nothing, literally pouring himself like water out of a pitcher.

5. Jesus gave up Godhood and took on slave hood, thus going from the ultimate Master to the lowest servant.

6. It’s important to note that Jesus was not a fake – He had all the bodily functions of a human being, and the true appearance of a man, as well as also being divine at the same time.

7. Jesus was the epitome of the ultimate model of who lived a life of self-sacrifice, self- renunciation, and for sure- self-surrender.

D. Allegiance to Jesus (2:9-11)

1. The name given to the Resurrected Jesus reveals his inner nature, which was so characteristic of names back in the ancient world, as names back then were more than just a way of distinguishing.

2. The Name Jesus is the supreme Name- Name above all names- because this is who Jesus is in his innermost being.

 3. Everyone will bow down before Jesus and pay him homage one day.

 4. Jesus Christ is Lord- the most basic confession of faith on the part of the Church.

**CONCLUSION** – Being humble and demonstrate the love Christ in all we do requires intentionally. As we noted in the lesson, humility is not something taught in our society or educational system. Yet, it is a very important part of the Christian life.

Some additional questions to consider are:

1. How can we as members here of the Hillcrest Church Family show more of a humble attitude toward our Elders, our Deacons, our Ministers, and especially to each other?
2. What are some practical ways our children can show humility to our leaders, Sunday School Class teachers, Ms. Jenny Putnum, our children’s minister, their parents and their siblings?
3. How can we model or instill a habit of humility?

A personal goal we might consider as we engage in our Christian Walk could include - Striving as a church family to be known for our humility and our love for other just like Jesus demonstrated in his life walk.

We should seek to “lose” ourselves in service to others – Just think how this is an example of humility!!!

Closing thought from 1 Peter 5:6 (ESV)

***6****Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you.*