

# SOME PILLARS OF CHURCH LIFE

## HUMILITY

*Philippians 2:1-13 and 1 Peter 5:5-7*

### **If... Then...**

*Philippians 2:1-2*

- ❑ Paul assumes you have:
  1. Encouragement from being united with Christ. Is there anything greater for the believer than this fact?
  2. Comfort from His love. He loves you and that means you are completely accepted. There is nothing that you need. If that is not comforting, you are not thinking!
  3. Fellowship with the Spirit. The Spirit is with you. While we would not say there is a location in your body where He is located, you are with Him in a way unbelievers are not.
  4. Tenderness and compassion
- ❑ Since you have these things, you should:
  1. Be like-minded. You should seek to be agreeing with one another. Since you are all united with God, you should be able to be like-minded.
  2. Be having the same love. Are you seeking to love others with the love you have been shown? This will be displayed in a powerful way in the body.
  3. Be one in spirit and purpose. If the same God that is working in others is working in you, why would there be disunity? You should be shooting for the same goal (purpose).
- ❑ Your relationship with God should dictate your strong relationship with others who are Christians. Can you put yourself before others God has saved?

### **Since There Will Be Difficulties...**

*Philippians 2:3-4*

- ❑ Just because we are Christians does not mean that there will be no disagreements or problems. The issue now should be how do we handle the problems *when* they come.
- ❑ Humility will determine that problems are not problems. Think about it, if we all applied this, how many times would there be problems in our relationships?
- ❑ Don't seek your own agenda. When you do, you are walking all over someone else's. Selfish ambition is not a good thing in God's economy.
- ❑ Basically, don't put yourself first. How is that for a command? Don't feel guilty, think again!
- ❑ We should consider others as better than ourselves. This means that we should seek their interests. Are you doing everything for their good, or are you thinking of your good?

### **Just Follow Christ!**

*Philippians 2:5-8*

- ❑ We have an example in Christ about how to handle putting others before ourselves. Don't you think we should listen to that?
- ❑ Christ is God and had all the benefits of being God, but he did not hold onto those "rights." Instead He gave up so many of His rights for us.
- ❑ He made Himself nothing. That is the way it describes His incarnation-Him becoming a man. Remember, this is God Himself taking the form of His servants--us!
- ❑ And that's not all! Even though that was humbling in itself, He humbled Himself even more. He died an awful death simply because He put other people above His own rights. He submitted to death (which He did not deserve) and the kind of death was the lowest form of the time. Talk about humility. Can any of us say we are that humble?

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## **We Must Strive For Humility and God Must Do It in Us**

*Philippians 2:12-13*

- ❑ This work of being humble is something you must work at, but you will never be able to do it on your own.
- ❑ You being able to be humble depends on God's grace in your life every moment of every day.
- ❑ Are you working? Are you praying for God's help?

## **God Cares for You: What More Could You Want?**

*1 Peter 5:5-7*

- ❑ We should be humble because the God you love loves those who are humble. Do you want God against you?
- ❑ Humble yourselves under God's rule. Humbling yourself and putting someone else first means you are trusting God and His timing.
- ❑ While anxiety is a natural response to all that could happen, it is not acceptable or necessary for the Christian. Do you trust your God?
- ❑ How do you lean on God and His grace?

## **So What?**

- ❑ Humility in relationships will look like putting others first. This is a great way to love others and should stand out in any gathering of Christians.
- ❑ While we cannot display the same humility that Jesus displayed, we must follow His example.
- ❑ Acting in humility means you trust God and His purposes rather than trying to get your own way.

## **Implication Questions**

1. Would people say you are characterized by humility?
2. How do you seek to cultivate humility every day?
3. Pride is the opposite of humility. Where do you see pride in your life today? What are you going to do about that?
4. What passages can you focus on to remind you of the need for humility?
5. Why would it be important for humility to characterize Crossroads Bible Fellowship?

## **A Book Recommendation**

*Humility: The Forgotten Virtue* by Wayne A. Mack with Joshua Mack

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