

“The Power of Humility”  
Philippians 2:3-8  
Aug. 14, 2011

To be humble like Jesus,  
the Christ-follower is...

1. Not selfish.

*“Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit...” (3a)*

2. In submission to the needs of others.

*“but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.” (3b-4)*

3. Able to see true value and identity.

*“Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.” (5-7)*

4. Surrendered to God’s plan no matter the cost.

*“Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.” (8)*

**Application:**

1. Are you humble, with the humility of Christ? In what specific ways can you show humility this week?
2. Make a list of all the descriptive words and phrases concerning your identity in Christ. Thank Him for your true identity.

Bible Study Questions/ Discussion  
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1. Discuss some of the misunderstandings you have observed in your life concerning "humility." If we are to follow Christ we must properly understand "humility." Humility begins with a negative command found in Phil. 2:3a. What must stop? Discuss the connection of pride with selfishness. Read James 3:14-16 and share times when selfishness hurt a church or a family.
  
2. What does it mean to have "empty conceit?" (Phil. 2:3) Read the following passages and share a time when you were proud of some accomplishment but as time went on it was empty. (Rom. 11:25; Gal. 6:3; 5:26)
  
3. In Phil. 2:3b there is a positive command for us to follow if we want to be "humble." Review some of the descriptions of humility and identify some benefits or ideas of humility.
  - Prov. 11:2 –
  - Prov. 16:19 –
  - Numbers 12:3 –
  - Psalm 37:11 –
  - Matt. 11:29 –
  - I Peter 5:5-6 –
  
4. How did Paul see himself in comparison to others? (I Cor. 15:9; Eph. 3:8; I Tim. 1:15) How can we do a better job "looking out for the interests of others?" (Rom. 12:15; 14:19; Gal. 6:2)
  
5. A Humble Christ follower understands their true identity. What was the true identity of Christ? (Phil. 2:5-6) (Also 2 Cor. 4:4; Col. 1:15; John 17:5) When Jesus "emptied Himself," what does that mean? (John 17:5; 5:20; Matt. 24:36; 2 Cor. 8:9; Matt. 27:46)
  
6. Jesus was willing to take the form of a bond servant. What was He seeking to accomplish? (John 1:14; Heb. 2:14; 4:15) Even though He was "100% God" He was "100% man." When people saw Him did they see a supernatural presence or a mere man? (John 10:33; Isa. 53:2)
  
7. Discuss the submission of Jesus to His Father. (Matt. 26:39; Heb. 12:2) Imagine the experience of dying by crucifixion. Imagine this happening to the Creator of the universe. Why did He humble Himself in such a way? (Rom. 5:8) As followers of Christ, are you willing to be humble as Christ was humble? What needs to change? What can you do today that takes the role of servant?