

Eagle Ridge Lake Elsinore — October 13, 2019
“Four Pillars: What We Value As A Church” (Part 2: Humility)

Welcome/Introduction


- God has given us 4 values (pillars) as a church.
 - Consider ancient temples
 - The foundation had to be solid (Jesus is our chief cornerstone; [Ephesians 2:20](#))
 - The pillars placed on that foundation need to be strong enough to hold up the structure and protect everything and everyone underneath it's covering.
 - Wisdom, Humility, Love, and Justice
 - Everything we do as a church (ministry, program, events, etc.) will be filtered through these values.
 - LAST WEEK: We discussed our value of Wisdom.
 - TODAY: We discuss another of our core values...Humility.


Scripture Reading

Philippians 2:1-11

1 So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, **2** complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. **3** Do nothing from selfish ambition 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 emptied himself, by 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. **9** Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, **10** so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, **11** and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Scripture Reflection (1-2 minutes)

- In wisdom, we seek to understand and know God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit through the reading and study of His inspired scripture.
-  In humility, we sacrifice our lives for the sake of the least, the last, and the lost.

-  **Mark 10:45**, “For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”
- If Jesus be our example, and it is He that we seek to exemplify in our lives, than let’s look to His ultimate example of humility.

Verse 1

1 So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy,

- IF THERE IS...
 - Any ‘encouragement’ in Christ (support, confidence, hope)
 - Jesus taught this throughout His ministry.
 - Jesus lived this throughout His ministry.
 - Comfort from love
 - He is the God of all comfort (2 Corinthians 1:3)
 - Participation in the Spirit (fellowship)
 - His indwelling presence should cause us to keep in step with the Spirit (Galatians 5:25)
 - Affection and Sympathy
 - As these are traits of Jesus, they should be ours as well.
- Essentially these are rhetorical questions, because if we are ‘in Christ’, these characteristics will be in us.
 - The question before us today is whether we are practicing these or not?

Verse 2



2 complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

- We must be unified in our submissiveness to Christ’s authority if we are to serve and sacrifice for others.

Verse 3

3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.

- If we are practicing those Christ-like characteristics, and we are unified in our purpose, then this is how we view others.
- **KEYWORD: Humility**
- ‘Counting others more significant’ doesn’t mean we are perpetually in last place or last picked for the game.
 - We are not unworthy (“if you were here last week”... discussion of ‘value’)

- Our value does NOT diminish as we count others more significant.
- We just have to look beyond ourselves, and see the value in others.
 - All too often, we spend our entire day ‘staring in the mirror’.
-  **Romans 12:10**, “Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.”
-  **1 Peter 5:5**, “...Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another...”
 - Consider the story of Jesus washing His disciples feet (John 13:4-5)
 - “...He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a **towel**, tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him.”
 - He first removed his outer garments
 - We must remove anything that will give people the perception that what we are doing is about us (sin, pride, distractions, etc.)
 - It was something he intentionally put on because he was going to **use it** in the action he was about to take.

Verse 4


4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

- This is how we relate to others.
- We need to take care of one another.
 - You'll only do this if you carry and practice the characteristics mentioned in verse 1.

Verses 5-7

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 emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

- What we see is that Jesus, in the form of God, had it all. He literally had everything!
- Yet, He humbled himself **[not fully surrendering or giving up His deity]**, but took on the form of man to lift us up because He counted us worthy, deserving more.
 - Omniscience (all knowing) = not surrendered, but proven in his ministry (he knew what was on people's hearts); not to make His life easier, but to point them to God.
 - **{Arrest of Jesus prior to crucifixion} John 18:4**, “Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to him...”

- Omnipotence (all powerful) = not surrendered, but proven by his miracles, and in the fatigue of ministry.
- Omnipresence (everywhere) = not surrendered, but proven by never being seen in more than one place at a time. He didn't avoid the journey.
- Had Jesus revealed the full extent of His deity while in human form, we would have no example to follow because of our human limitations, and could therefore not reason ourselves to be 'in Christ'.
- He did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped.
 - He already had it. It was not something He was trying to attain.
 - But willingly released it [but not surrendered] for the sake of our salvation.
 -  **Mark 10:45**, "For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."
 - He set aside His crown, throne, heavenly glory...removed His outer garments, tied a towel around His waist, and in humility came to serve. WOW!
 - Jesus = Humility
 - Ultimate acts of service...Ultimate acts of sacrifice...All for you and me.

Verse 8

8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.


- The humility that Jesus expressed was in complete submission to His Father's will.
 - **{Jesus' prayer prior to arrest and crucifixion} Matthew 26:39**, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will."
 - Did He have the power to overtake His oppressors?
 - Did He have the knowledge to know what He was going to endure and recuse Himself of the sacrifice?
 - **Luke 23:34-43**, "And Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.' [even in the moment of torturous, excruciating pain, Jesus is thinking about others] And they cast lots to divide his garments. And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, 'He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!' The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine and saying, 'If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!' There was also an inscription over him, 'This is the King of the Jews.' One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, 'Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!' But the other rebuked him, saying, 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.' And he said, 'Jesus,

remember me when you come into your kingdom.’ And he said to him, ‘Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.’”

- The extent of our humility and submission to God should have no limitation, no boundaries, no conditions.
 - Material gain on earth pales in comparison to our treasure in heaven.
 - Humble submission, service, and sacrifice on earth will pale in comparison to the exaltation we will receive in Heaven as a reward for our faithfulness and perseverance.
 - The ultimate reason we serve and sacrifice = for the glory of God, not ourselves.

APPLICATION

How does this apply to us and why is Humility one of our core values?

- If Christ’s example for us to follow is complete humble submission, obedience, service, and sacrifice, what will the world call us to?...PRIDE!
 - Pride calls us to self-exaltation.
 - Me-centric, me-first attitude towards all things and all people.
 - **Message on Obadiah 1:3-4, “You have to fly before you can walk” (YouTube)**
 -  **1 John 2:15-16**, “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh [what you want to do] and the desires of the eyes [what you want to have] and pride of life [what you want to be for your own glory]—is not from the Father but is from the world.”
 - **Proverbs 16:18**, “Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.”
 - If you’re focused on you, will you ever put yourself in a position to serve others?
 - If you’re more concerned about your time, talents, and treasure, rather than using them to glorify God and serve others, you’re not in a position to sacrifice for the sake of others.

Title Slide

- Practical things you can do to keep your pride and/or humility in check.
 - Taken from Jeremy Taylor’s “The Grace of Humility” (1650’s)
 - **If you would like a copy of this list, email me and I’ll send you one.**
 1. Do not think better of yourself because of any outward circumstance that happens to you.
 2. Do not criticize yourself, wear ragged clothes, or walking around submissively wherever you go. Have a realistic opinion of yourself.

- There is such a thing as ‘pride in humility’.
- 3. Do good things in secret (difficult in a social media world)
 - “...and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.” (Matthew 6)
- 4. Do not let praise for yourself be the design of your conversation.
- 5. Do not fish for compliments.
- 6. Reflect praise back to God, the giver of the gift. God receives the glory and gratitude for making you an instrument of his glory for the benefit of others.
- 7. Take an active part in the praise of others.
- 8. Do not entertain any of the devil’s whispers of pride.
 - “...take every thought captive to obey Christ,” (2 Corinthians 10:5)
- 9. Be content when you see or hear that others are doing well in their jobs and with their income, even when you are not.
- 10. Give God thanks for every weakness, fault, and imperfection you have.
 - “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.” (2 Corinthians 12:9)
- 11. What is most important to God is that we submit ourselves and all that have to him.
- 12. Humility begins as a gift from God, but it is increased as a habit we develop... exercise your humility.

CONCLUSION

- In the words of Obadiah, “The pride of your heart has deceived you.” (Obadiah 1:3)
- In the words of Solomon, “When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with the humble is wisdom.” (Proverbs 11:2)
- In the words of John the Baptist, “He must increase, and I must decrease.” (John 3:30)
- In the words of the Apostle Paul, “[Do] not think of yourself more highly than you ought to think...” (Romans 12:3)
- In the words of James, “Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.” (James 4:10)
- In the words of Jesus, “Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.” (Matthew 23:12)
- Humility is a ‘pillar’ of Eagle Ridge Lake Elsinore because without it, we lack the grace to see others as more significant than ourselves.
- Humility is a ‘pillar’ of Eagle Ridge Lake Elsinore because it is what causes us to serve and sacrifice our lives for the least, the last, and the lost in our community.

- Humility is a 'pillar' of Eagle Ridge Lake Elsinore **IO** so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, **II** and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Closing Prayer/Response

Tithe/Offering and Closing Worship Song