



NAVIGATE

CHANGE
YOUR DIRECTION

Humilitas: Cultivating Humility

April 5th, 2015

First pride, then the crash—the bigger the ego, the harder the fall. ¹⁹It's better to live humbly among the poor than to live it up among the snooty.
– Proverbs 16:18-19 (MSG)

THE FIRST STEP TO TRUE HUMILITY:

ACKNOWLEDGE THE POISON OF PRIDE

Instead of being motivated by selfish ambition or vanity, each of you should, in humility, be moved to treat one another as more important than yourself.
– Philippians 2:3 (NET)

God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble. – James 4:6 (ESV)

Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. – 1 Peter 5:5 (ESV)

- DRIVENNESS
- SCORNFULNESS
- WILLFULNESS
- SELF-CONSCIOUSNESS

Christ-Centered Humility...

1. EMBRACES A DEFERENTIAL SPIRIT

Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. – Philippians 2:3-4 (NLT)

Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
– Matthew 11:29-30 (ESV)

2. EMULATES HIS SACRIFICIAL SURRENDER

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but

*emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.
8And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the
point of death, even death on a cross. – Philippians 2:5-8 (ESV)*

Psalm 113:4-7; Isaiah 57:15; Psalm 18:35

*And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each
other's feet. 15I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you.
– John 13:14-15 (NLT)*

3. ENJOYS THE PARADOXICAL PATHWAY

*Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above
every name, 10so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on
earth and under the earth, 11and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the
glory of God the Father. – Philippians 2:9-11 (ESV)*

*He has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; he has brought down the
mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate. – Luke 1:51-52 (ESV)*

*Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper
time he may exalt you. – 1 Peter 5:6 (ESV)*

*Living then, as every one of you does, in pure grace, it's important that you not
misinterpret yourselves as people who are bringing this goodness to God. No, God
brings it all to you. The only accurate way to understand ourselves is by what God is
and by what he does for us, not by what we are and what we do for him.
– Romans 12:3 (MSG)*

Deuteronomy 8:13-17

I Will Change My Direction Today by...

- A – ACCEPTING CHRIST** for the first time as my personal Savior and Lord.
- B – BELIEVING IN CHRIST** to restore my relationship with him again after drifting away.
- C – CONSIDERING CHRIST** through requesting more information before I decide.

WALK THE TALK

A Growth Group Guide

1. Do you remember the first time you had to drive somewhere faraway and unknown to you? What were its challenges? What caused you the most anxiety? What did it feel like when you finally made it to your big destination?
2. Why do you think Pride is the chief among all the vices within the human heart? How does it seem to affect all the other vices? (Note: In traditional church language they are called the Seven Deadly Sins – pride, greed, envy, lust, anger, apathy, and gluttony/addiction.)
3. How can humility (one of the Seven Heavenly Virtues that will be fully explored in our Navigate sermon series on humility, generosity, kindness, purity, patience, diligence, and self-control) help defeat pride in our lives?
4. Re-read Philippians 2:1-11.
 - a. Why does Paul have to really work hard to get the Philippi Church to come together in unity? What values does he appeal to them to employ? What things does he discourage them to let go of? Why is this so important?
 - b. Why do you think Jesus is used as the ultimate example for us to learn the power of humility? What example did he show us? What depth did he descend to in order to achieve this humility?
 - c. How does his example of a “paradoxical pathway” show us the way to do likewise? (i.e., the last shall be first, the loser will be the winner, those who die shall actually live)