



Part 2: The Lowly Path of Wisdom
Small Group Guide
October 25, 2026

Overview

This sermon explores humility not as a vague spiritual virtue but as a deliberate, practical posture that opens us to God's wisdom and all of its blessings. Drawing from Proverbs 3, the message identified two dimensions of humility — before God and before others — and mapped out specific, actionable steps along what Pastor Eric calls "the lowly path of wisdom."

Key Takeaways

- Humility is not something that happens to us. It is a decisive, intentional act — a choice to lower ourselves before God and others.
- The Greek word for humility, *tapenos*, simply means to make oneself lower than another. This definition remains consistent throughout both the Old and New Testaments.
- Wisdom is not primarily the accumulation of knowledge or experience. It is found on a lowly path, not an ascending one.
- The Holy Spirit is wisdom. Walking humbly before God does not give us the Spirit, but it trains us to hear and perceive the Spirit in ways we could not before.
- Humility before others goes far beyond having a pleasant attitude. It involves generosity, responsiveness, protecting others from harm, pursuing peace, and choosing good on behalf of others — even when it costs us.

- The rewards of humility are knowing God's love, receiving His grace, and being raised into His honor and authority — none of which we can manufacture on our own.
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Discussion Questions

Opening

When you hear the word humility, what image or person comes to mind? How would you have defined humility before hearing this sermon?

Eric said, "Either way, we get humbled — but in one way, we are making a choice, and in the other way, it is happening in spite of what we want." Have you experienced both kinds? What was the difference?

Humility Before God

1. **Trust God above your own knowledge, experience, and intellect (Proverbs 3:5).** C.S. Lewis is quoted as saying our minds can only take in a fraction of total reality. Where in your life do you find it hardest to trust God's perspective over your own?
2. **See God in every part of our journey (Proverbs 3:6)** — including the messy and painful parts. This is perhaps even harder than trusting God in the present. Is there a chapter of your life where you have struggled to believe God was present? How does Romans 8:28-30 speak to that?
3. **Revere God above my own benefits (Proverbs 3:7).** Eric described the danger of pursuing God primarily for what He can do for us, saying, "If my pursuit of God is rooted in what he can do for me, who is at the center of that pursuit? Me." How do you personally guard against making yourself the center of your relationship with God?
4. **Pursue God's agenda over my own (Proverbs 3:9).** The sermon uses the example of Jesus and the woman at the well to illustrate pursuing God's agenda over our own — Jesus set aside even His physical need to eat in order to follow what the Father was doing. What is one area of your life where your own agenda most frequently competes with God's?
5. **Accept God's instruction and correction (Proverbs 3:11).** The speaker reflected on the tendency to hear correction from God and immediately deflect it onto "someone else who needs it". How do you personally practice receiving God's correction before applying it to others?

Humility Before Others

1. **Give generously (Proverbs 3:27).** The sermon defines generosity broadly — not just financial giving, but generosity with time, attention, listening, and talent. Which of these forms of generosity is most difficult for you, and why?
2. **Respond Quickly (Proverbs 3:28).** Pastor Eric made a personal confession about screening phone calls and choosing personal comfort over responding to others in the moment. Was there a moment during the sermon where God put His finger on an area of your life where you choose to delay a response to others when you could respond quickly? If you feel comfortable, share it with the group.
3. **Do no harm (Proverbs 3:29).** The sermon reframes the "burning coals" passage in Romans 12 — rather than using kindness as a weapon against enemies, the original Hebrew suggests we are releasing the purifying, transforming presence of the Holy Spirit into that person's life. How does this change the way you think about loving difficult people?
4. **Live at peace (Proverbs 3:20).** Eric said humble kindness is not motivated by the benefits we receive from being kind, but by the benefits to others. How often do you find your acts of kindness or generosity are quietly motivated by what you expect in return — even from God?
5. **Choose good (Proverbs 3:31).** Doing what is honorable, ethical, and good is rooted in humility because it focuses not on our own prosperity, but on the good of the community and others. Envy of those who prosper through deceit, aggression, and unethical behaviors is a reflection of the inner pride that says, "I deserve to be as successful as them." Have you ever found yourself admiring or celebrating behaviors in others that you would not do yourself? What does that reveal?

Rewards of Humility

- **Knowing God's Love and Wisdom.** The sermon identifies the primary reward of humility before God as knowing His love more fully — not earning it, but having our vision cleared to see it. How has a season of

genuine humility in your life opened your eyes to God's love in a new way?

- **Finding God's Grace and Wisdom.** Eric says that grace with God and grace with people are connected — pointing to Acts 2:47 where the early church had favor with all the people around them. Have you seen this dynamic at work — where humility in a community or in a person's life opened doors with those outside the faith?
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Practical Applications

Choose one or more of the following to practice individually or as a group before your next meeting.

For Humility Before God

- Identify one situation in your life where you have been relying primarily on your own analysis — of a person, a circumstance, or a decision. Spend time this week asking God to show you what He sees in that situation instead of defaulting to your own conclusions.
- Review your weekly schedule and budget. Ask honestly: where does God's agenda consistently get displaced by your own plans, needs, or preferences? Make one concrete adjustment.
- When you encounter a teaching, a sermon, or a moment of conviction this week, pause before thinking of who else needs to hear it. Ask first: what is God saying to me?

For Humility Before Others

- Identify one person in your life whose call, message, or need you have been delaying responding to for your own comfort. Reach out this week without waiting for the right moment.
 - Think of one person who has caused you harm or with whom you are in conflict. Rather than withholding kindness until they deserve it, identify one specific, genuine act of good you can do for them this week — not as a strategy, but as a release of God's grace into their life.
 - Consider where you have withheld something good from someone — a compliment, an apology, a resource, your time — when it was within your power to give it. Take one step toward giving it this week.
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Closing Reflection

The sermon closed with this prayer:

"Father, we submit ourselves to you this morning. We bow down. We posture ourselves. We position ourselves in a place of lowliness before you, Lord. Asking your spirit to reveal to us the things that you want to challenge. The things that you want to transform. The things that you want to form in us. As we are formed in the image of Christ. Who though being equal to God did not consider equality with God something to be grasped. But lowered himself into the form of a servant. Father, make us like Jesus."

Close your group time by praying this prayer together, or invite each member to pray silently and ask God to identify one specific area where He is calling them to walk the lowly path this week.

Scripture References for Further Study

- Proverbs 3:5-35 — The primary passage from the sermon
- James 3:17 — The wisdom from above described
- James 4 — Pride and humility addressed together
- Proverbs 11:2 — Humility and wisdom connected
- Romans 8:28-30 — God working all things together for good
- Romans 12:9-21 — Living at peace, overcoming evil with good
- Philippians 2:1-8 — The humility of Christ as our model
- Colossians 3:12 — Clothing ourselves with humility and compassion
- Hebrews 4:16 — Approaching the throne of grace with confidence
- 2 Corinthians 12:9 — God's power perfected in weakness