



Philippians 2:12-30 – The Practice of Humility.

ADAM LONG | Week of November 25th, 2018

SERMON OVERVIEW // Last week we looked at the example of humility found in Christ as well as the **necessity for humility**. This week we took a look at the **practice of humility**.

SERMON TEXT // **Philippians 2:12-18** English Standard Version

With the breathtaking portrait of Jesus before them Paul exhorts the church at Philippi to demonstrate the same humility in their everyday lives and does so with three commands:

1. WORK TOWARD THE PATTERN OF HUMILITY. (vv.12-13)

- The pattern of humility is the pattern of working out our salvation with fear and trembling.
- The term **work out** carries with it the imagery of *working a mine* or *a field*.
- It is not a merit-based system but rather a fruit-producing system.
- This fear is a fear before a God who should be terrifying but in His sovereignty leads us to live out our salvation in a sense of awe.

2. WALK FORWARD IN THE PURPOSE OF HUMILITY. (vv.14-16)

- The purpose of humility is seen in the way believers walk out their faith and salvation. It allows us to **shine as lights** to the dark world around us.
- As we allow God to achieve His purpose of humility and Christlikeness in our lives, we become stronger witnesses in a world that desperately needs Jesus.
- **Holding fast to the word of life** means believing the gospel and following it – this is the purpose of humility that leads to the result of humility.

3. WORSHIP UPWARD BY THE POWER OF HUMILITY. (vv.17-18)

- The power of humility is found in the worship of God that leads to rejoicing.
- Paul says he would be honored if his life was poured out as an offering on account of *their* faith offering before the Lord.
- It was a vivid illustration for the life being lived out in service for God.

Paul was careful to display the necessity of humility by painting the picture of the humility found in Jesus but was also certain to also display the need and understanding of practicing humility in the life of the church and the believers within.



Discussion Questions – The Practice of Humility.

COMMUNITYGROUPS | Week of November 25th, 2018

Question 1

What was something you wrote down or a truth that resonated with you from listening to the sermon, looking at the overview, or reading this particular passage in Philippians?

Question 2

Paul exhorts the church to work out their salvation with fear and trembling which simply means living out our freedom by living in reverence before God. **How are we to balance the mindset of “working” without embracing a merit-based system of living?** *Share any personal practices you have to keep this balance with the group as well.*

Question 3

One of the ways we are to walk out our humility is by avoiding grumbling and complaining. **What are some pitfalls the church needs to avoid in order to promote unity through humility and, as Paul urges, avoid grumbling and complaining?** *How, practically, can we avoid them? Share some practical ideas as a group after listing pitfalls we need to avoid.*

Question 4

Paul shares his hopes that his life could be poured out as a drink offering upon the altar in which their faith would be brought before the Lord so they could rejoice together. **What do you find encouraging about Paul's sacrificial mind-set?** *How can we as individuals, as a community group, and as a local church cultivate this type of mind-set for the advancement of the Gospel? As a group share as many ideas, thoughts, and practical means you can think up.*