

Be Different Part 5: The Antidote

Objective: To challenge us to develop true humility in our lives.

Read together:

Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. 9 Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. 10 For, "Whoever would love life and see good days must keep their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech. 11 They must turn from evil and do good; they must seek peace and pursue it.

I Peter 3:8-11

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, 2 then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. 3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, 4 not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. 5 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; 7 rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

Philippians 1:1-8

- When you look at our culture, do you see the tendency to be self-obsessed? What evidence can you point to? How much do you tend to be focused on yourself?
- If the antidote to the disease of me is humility, why do you think we struggle so much to be humble?
- Paul told us "***In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus.***" According to Paul, what did that mindset look like? Do you think that is your mindset towards others?
- Do you think it is easy or difficult to value others? The pastor mentioned several ways to value others (look them in the eye, speak kindly, defer to their desires, etc.). Which one is the hardest for you to practice? Why do you think that is?
- Valuing others above ourselves is counter-intuitive, but essential if we are going to overcome our addiction to self. Do you worry about being valued in return? Do you believe that if you value others above yourself, God will provide what you need?
- "What can I do to help you?" is a simple yet profound question to ask in all of your relationships. How often do you ask that question of others? How willing are you to leverage yourself for the sake of others with no expectation of anything in return? How would that attitude impact all of your relationships?
- To love others like Jesus did means we must be willing to lay down *everything* for the sake of others. Why do we tend to resist that so much? If our small group (or our church) adopted that mindset, what is the potential impact on our community?

Final Thought: Jesus' attitude was a willingness to completely lay down his life for those who hated him. This is the ultimate act of humility. This week, what is one thing you can do to get one step closer to this kind of humility in your relationships?

