

FOR TO ME TO LIVE IS CHRIST, AND TO DIE IS GAIN

- ▶ How do we truly live like Him? Are there certain action or deeds we need to perform? Do we attempt to do miracles as He did? Is our goal to become a “little god”? It’s actually quite simple; in fact we can reduce it to two words (but just because it’s simple doesn’t mean it’s easy): **Selfless humility**. Christ taught—through word and action—a descent into greatness.

Matthew 20:25-28 “But Jesus called them to him and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. ²⁶ It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, ²⁸ even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Philippians 2:1-10 “So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy

Philippians 2:1-2 MSG “**IF** you’ve gotten anything at all out of following Christ, **IF** his love has made any difference in your life, **IF** being in a community of the Spirit means anything to you, **IF** you have a heart, **IF** you *care*—then do me a favor:”

- ▶ The five “if’s” are not meant to communicate uncertainty but instead to state the obvious. These qualities are assumed to be true.

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.

Because these are true:

- Encouragement in Christ
- Consolation of love
- Fellowship of the Spirit
- Affection
- Compassion

←**Then make my joy**
complete →

By doing these things:

- Being of the same mind
- Maintaining the same love
- United in Spirit
- Being intent on one purpose



“It is very evident that Christians will never see eye to eye on all points. We are so largely influenced by habits, by environment, by education, by the measure of spiritual and intellectual apprehension to which we have attained, that it is near impossible to find any number of people who look at everything from the same standpoint. How then can such be of one mind?...The mind of Christ, is the lowly mind. And if we are all together of this mind we shall walk together in love, considering one another, and seeking rather to be helpers of one another’s faith.” — *Harry Ironside*

- ▶ Jesus Himself said that a house divided could not stand. In order for the church to function at it’s optimal level we have got to be united. The way to truly function in unity we must follow the author of humility!

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.

- ▶ Humility must have its origin in Christ for He is the very definition of humility. Only then can we truly deny ourselves and see the other as more significant.

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.

Points to ponder:

- All things were created through Jesus. **John 1:3, John 1:10, Colossians 1:16, 1 Corinthians 8:6**
- Jesus gave up the glory of heaven.
- Jesus gave up His deity. **Hebrews 1:3**
- Jesus became like His creation.
- Jesus subjected Himself to death, a brutal death.
- Jesus became sin. **2 Corinthians 5:21**



Routinely confess your sin to God (Luke 18:9-14)

All of us sin and fall short of the glory of God. However, too few of us have a routine practice of rigorous self-honesty examination. Weekly, even daily, review of our hearts and behaviors, coupled with confession to God, is an essential practice of humility.

Acknowledge your sin to others (James 3:2, James 5:16)

Humility before God is not complete unless there is also humility before man. A true test of our willingness to humble ourselves is willingness to share with others the weaknesses we confess to God. Wisdom, however, dictates that we do so with others that we trust.

Take wrong patiently (1 Peter 3:8-17)

When something is unjust we want to react and rectify it. However, patiently responding to the unjust accusations and actions of others demonstrates our strength of godly character and provides an opportunity to put on humility.

Actively submit to authority...the good and the bad (1 Peter 2:18)

Our culture does not value submission; rather it promotes individualism. How purposely and actively do you work on submission to those whom God has placed as authorities in your life? Doing so is a good way to humble yourself.

Receive correction and feedback from others graciously (Proverbs 10:17, 12:1)

In the Phoenix area, a local East valley pastor was noted for graciously receiving any negative feedback or correction offered. He would simply say "thank you for caring enough to share that with me, I will pray about it and get back to you." Look for the kernel of truth in what people offer you, even if it comes from a dubious source. Always pray, "Lord, what are you trying to show me through this?"

Accept a lowly place (Proverbs 25:6,7)

If you find yourself wanting to sit at the head table, wanting others to recognize your contribution or become offended when others are honored or chosen, then pride is present. Purpose to support others being recognized, rather than you. Accept and look for the lowly place; it is the place of humility.



Purposely associate with people of lower state than you (Luke 7:36-39)

Jesus was derided by the Pharisees for socializing with the poor and those of lowly state. Our culture is very status conscious and people naturally want to socialize upward. Resist the temptation of being partial to those with status or wealth.

Choose to serve others (Philippians 1:1, 2 Corinthians 4:5, Matthew 23:11)

When we serve others, we are serving God's purposes in their lives. Doing so reduces our focus on ourselves and builds the Kingdom of God. When serving another costs us nothing, we should question whether it is really servanthood

Be quick to forgive (Matthew 18: 21-35)

Forgiveness is possibly one of the greatest acts of humility we can do. To forgive is to acknowledge a wrong that has been done us and also to further release our right of repayment for the wrong. Forgiveness is denial of self. Forgiveness is not insisting on our way and our justice.

Cultivate a grateful heart (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

The more we develop an attitude of gratitude for the gift of salvation and life He has given us, the more true our perspective of self. A grateful heart is a humble heart.

Purpose to speak well of others (Ephesians 4:31-32).

Saying negative things about others puts them "one down" and us "one up." Speaking well of others edifies them and builds them up. Make sure, however, that what you say is not intended as flattery.

Treat pride as a condition that always necessitates embracing the cross (Luke 9:23)

It is our nature to be proud and it is God's nature in us that brings humility. Committing to a lifestyle of daily dying to ourselves and living through Him is the foundation for true humility.

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."

