



First Baptist Church Fair Oaks Ranch

Philippians 2:1-8 “If there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”

Arguably the single greatest virtue for Christians apart from love is humility. If one considers the opposite of humility is pride, which is the original sin (Is 12:12-15); than humility should be one of the original virtues that each Christ follower should strive toward. Interestingly, humility is not a fruit of the spirit but is the product of maturity and awareness of one’s own shortcomings.

Unity within the church can only be achieved through humility. The text begins with appealing to the believers’ shared experiences in Christ, urging them to be like-minded, having the same love, and being one in spirit and purpose. Humility is seen first in selflessness. Paul instructs the Philippians to “do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit.” Genuine humility involves putting aside personal desires and ambitions for the sake of others. This principle challenges the natural human inclination towards self-promotion and self-interest. This does not mean that ambition by itself is wrong. In many ways, ambition is what drives humans to greater discoveries and accomplishments. This is part of God’s original command to subdue the earth and have dominion over it. However, ‘selfish ambition’ is when personal recognition, success or accomplishment is more important than living righteously and for the best interests of others first. Secondly, humility is expressed through honestly considering others as more important than self. Verse 3 states “count others better than yourselves.” This does not mean devaluing oneself but rather recognizing and honoring the worth and contributions of others. It involves an authentic appreciation for the gifts and abilities of those around us. Thirdly, humility is emphasized through demonstrating looking out for the interests of others, asking oneself continually: “how would I want others to look out for me.”

Jesus is the greatest example of humility, especially considering that the step downward he took toward us is infinite compared to our step sideways toward others; and he had no ‘shortcomings’ giving him a launching point for humility to begin. His humility was sincere and sacrificial. The text presents Jesus’ humility in verses 5-8. It begins by exhorting believers to have the same mindset as Christ and then outlines the steps of Christ’s humility. Despite his divine and eternal nature, Jesus did not cling to His status but willingly took on human form. This act of incarnation is a profound demonstration of humility, as the Creator became part of His creation. Secondly, he did not come as a King, a ruler, a rich person, or even someone of inherent influence but came to a poor family, from the smallest tribe, to the dingiest city (City of Sheep herders), and took on the full embodiment of servant. At no time during his earthly ministry did he exert a spirit that demanded his own way or preference, instead his life was marked by continual acts of service, self-sacrifice, compassion, and ministry to others. The culmination of his humility being exemplified in His obedience to the Father’s will, even to the point of enduring the shame and suffering of crucifixion. His willingness to lay down His life for humanity being the pinnacle of humility.



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As Christ followers, humility should be our greatest 'self-less' ambition. Continually consider ways that you can put your preferences aside to bless someone else. Think of ways that you can be 'put out and put off' so others can be blessed and lifted up. Rather than evaluating the sacrifice before serving, endure the cost while trusting the Lord to faithfully make up the difference. Listen without interrupting or feeling the need to express your opinion in order to sound smart or 'correct' another. Admit mistakes quickly and without explanation or justification. Stop adding up the number of times you have been humble or taken advantage of as if there is a prize to win in the end. Ironically, the double-edged sword of proud humility is always lurking in the dark corners of our mind. Finally, treat humility as a never-ending journey rather than a destination. We will never reach the depth of humility that Christ put on display and to assume we could, is the embodiment of pride.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, as we conclude these 40 days of prayer, reflection and fasting from various distractions; we have been challenged to walk in a Christ-like manner. Perhaps the greatest display of this mindset is found in the character of humility. It is impossible for us to have too much humility, so we ask that you would never stop teaching and convicting us to walk in this way. Thank you for these 40 days of reflection. May the lessons learned and the freedoms gain resonate in the weeks and months ahead. For your glory and in the name of Jesus we pray.