

Practicing the Christian Life: Humility

Philippians 2:1-8

8/20/23

Outline

"There's enough evidence from 20 years of scientific studies to conclude that people with high self-esteem possess a greater threat to people than those with low self-esteem. Low self-esteem is not the source of society's biggest problems." ~"The Trouble with Self-esteem" by Lauren Slater, 1992 New York Times.

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 2:1-8

I. The Power of Humility.

- The power to look away from ourselves.

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others." (vss. 3-4)

"Who, being in very nature God,

did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

rather, he made himself nothing

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"Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment..." Romans 12:3

- The power to look towards others.

"Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others." (vss. 3-4)

God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." James 4:6

II. The Poison of Pride.

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit." (vs. 3)

Selfish Ambition

Vain Conceit

"The grass withers and the flowers fall..." Isaiah 40:8

III. The Liberty of Knowing Christ.

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"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..."
(vs. 1)

United with Christ

"I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am." John 14:3

The Comfort of His Love

We Have the Spirit

*Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;
rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.*

*And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross! (vss. 5-9)*

*Where have all the good men gone
And where are all the gods?
Where's the streetwise Hercules
To fight the rising odds?
Isn't there a white knight upon a fiery steed
Late at night, I toss and I turn
And I dream of what I need
I need a hero...*

*Somewhere after midnight
In my wildest fantasy
Somewhere, just beyond my reach
There's someone reaching back for me*

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Racing on the thunder

And rising with the heat

It's gonna take a Superman to sweep me off my feet, yeah ~Holding Out for a Hero by Bonnie Tyler