

The Christian Virtue of Humility

Small Group Discussion Questions

Join our congregation for worship in-person or online at 10:30 am each Sunday via our [Grantham Church YouTube Channel](#). If you ever miss a message, the sermons are always posted to the [recent sermons page](#) at our website and at the [Grantham Church Podcast](#) the following day, along with the small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for staying connected with us!

Sunday, November 13th, 2022



Speaker: Pastor David Flowers

Sermon Title: The Christian Virtue of Humility

Scripture Reading: Luke 18:9-14; Philippians 2:1-11; Colossians 3:12-14

Sermon Focus: In the earliest days of the church, *humility* was held up as one of the highest virtues of Christian character. In fact, it was an identity marker that set disciples apart from unbelievers in the Greco-Roman world. That's because humility was seen as weakness and denigrated by those who believed that boasting, self-sufficiency, wealth and status, and political power were ways of achieving the good life. In this message, Pastor David says that our own culture isn't all that different, and he calls the church to embody humility by renewing our commitment to the God who looks like Jesus.

Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group in person or by video call. Use the following questions to help *guide* your small group discussion:

1. Read Luke 18:9-14 together. We could probably give some examples of people who remind us of the Pharisee in this story. But pride can also appear in not so obvious ways, as we look down on others and think of ourselves as being better. Think about some expressions or postures of pride that you have experienced or seen in your own life and journey. What are some examples of pride today?
2. Rick Warren wrote, *"Humility is not thinking less of yourself; it is thinking of yourself less. Humility is thinking more of others."* What are some distortions or misconceptions about humility that we need to do away with in the church? Also, discuss Warren's quote and how it can help us do that.
3. Pastor David shared an illustration of a road (the way of humility) with two ditches: pride and shame. He said that the opposite of pride is not humility, it is shame. Take some time to discuss what this image looks like practically. What does pride look like? What does shame look like? And how do we avoid the ditches and live into the way of true humility?
4. Read Philippians 2:1-11 together. This passage of Scripture reveals that the incarnation and crucifixion are the quintessential expression of humility. This is what God is like. And this is what God wants for us. What speaks to you most about this passage? How can you apply this to your own life at the moment?
5. Read Colossians 3:12-14 together. The Apostle Paul recognizes that the development of Christian character is a work of the Spirit, but it is also something that we participate in as disciples. We must yield to God's will for our lives. We are invited to "clothe" ourselves each day. The Spirit lays out our "clothes" (virtues), but we must choose to put them on. Be honest. Which of these virtues might you need to grow in as a follower of Jesus?
6. As you continue to reflect on Colossians 3:12-14, which of these virtues do you think our church embodies well? Where might we need to grow? After your discussion, please close in prayer for these areas of needed growth.