

## HUMBLE - Part 1

Scripture used: [Philippians 2:3-5 \(NLT\)](#)

### OVERVIEW

Pastor Hurmon started us on a three-part series on humility, loosely based on insights from management expert Patrick Lencioni, a Christian who draws inspiration from the life and character of Jesus. In this first message, Pastor Hurmon confronts the question, “Why be humble at all? What’s the point?” The wisdom of Scripture applies to all aspects of our lives, whether making personal choices and building our families, building healthy cultures for our companies and organizations.

### KEY POINTS

- 1) The power hidden in humility is life’s best-kept secret. It pays to be a team player. For instance, kids are “sinfully smart” at identifying and leveraging their parents’ strengths and weaknesses. They know how to play differences. But if you conceive of parenting as a team, your disagreements can be overcome by collaboration, support, and endorsement. Cohesive project teams at work are the same. A study group becomes a “posse.” A life group is more than a discussion and prayer group: it’s a team to “do life” with, including sickness, success, and confusion.
- 2) Humility is key to being a team player. Pastor Hurmon’s grand-aunt raised 16 kids as a sharecropping tenant farmer in rural Louisiana. She later obtained a GED. Her primary instruction to Pastor Hurmon was the need to care for others instead of just oneself. Humility is the best expression of greatness and faithfulness. It keeps us in alignment with others; and with God’s purpose for our lives..
- 3) Examples of humility abound in the Bible. Most women in the Bible (Ruth, Esther, Mary) display humility, as they were taught from childhood. But men who are not generally taught to be humble do display humility too. David is an unlikely leader. In [Psalms 51:3-4](#), he acknowledges his rebellion & sin, and accepts judgment. By owning his mistakes, he can recover and find his power. John the Baptist expects to become less and less, as Jesus becomes greater and greater ([John 3:30](#)). The Apostle Paul has a conversion from pride to humility. ([Philippians 3:7-9](#)). He goes from privilege and righteousness to a realization that everything in his life is worthless compared to the “infinite value” of Jesus. Jesus himself ([Matthew 11:29](#)) is humble and gentle of heart. His gentleness is strength under control. He does not use his power and authority for himself but for others. In [Matthew 20:26-28](#), he reminds us that whoever wants to be a leader & wants to be first, should start by being a servant.
- 4) Humility is essential to building high-quality relationships ([Ephesians 4:2](#)). Humility enables patience, making allowance for other people’s weaknesses, and an ability to discipline our pride. The opposite of humility is the person who is publicly arrogant (narcissistic, boastful, dominating, celebrating himself). King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon is portrayed that way ([Daniel 4:27 and 4:30-31](#)) until God cuts him down. We turn from the path of humility when we focus obsessively on his pleasure, gratification, advancement. It takes humility and self-confidence to ask for help and receive gifts in times of need.
- 5) Humility has firm characteristics ([Philippians 2:3-5](#)): defining success collectively; relinquishing the ego, status, and need to impress; pointing out accomplishments of others; and emphasizing team & family over self. This is when God will exalt you!

### DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - Discern your heart. What are the models of humility that have shaped your life? Do you find it easy or difficult to be humble? In Silicon Valley, many are caught up with pride, ego, and concern over rank and status. How do you respond to this environment?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - Reflect on [Philippians 2:3-5](#). How does Jesus teach us that humility is a part of fulfilling God’s purpose for our lives? Many people around us may be on other paths of attaining their goals. What is the difference between living with humility versus trying to live life out of other motivations? Do you believe that living with humility is the best way to live?
- 3) **DO** - Where in your life right now (work, family, friends) do you sense God calling you to live with great humility? Pray and ask God for help to trust Him, and take advantage of opportunities to lift others up and display humility in ways small and big.