

HUMBLE - Part 2: Courageous Humility

Scripture used: [Philippians 2:3-11 \(NIV\)](#)

OVERVIEW

In this message, we looked at how the Biblical definition of humility is radically different from our common, everyday definition of humility. Instead of polite modesty or looking down on ourselves, **the essence of biblical humility is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less.** That is, if we are truly humble in the way that Jesus was, we need to know who we are and embrace our identity as children of God, loved by God and created by Him. We should not shy away from acknowledging our strengths and weaknesses, or our areas of confidence and insecurity, but we should be able to bring all of who we are before God. And then, in true humility, our primary focus is not on ourselves, but we think of ourselves less (often), and we think of others more often, being focused on how God wants to use our lives to fulfill His purpose in the world. When we do not think less of ourselves, but think of ourselves less (often), we are able to be courageous and sacrificial in the way we live, which will ultimately allow us to fulfill God's purpose for our lives.

KEY POINTS

- 1) The common, everyday definition of humility we are surrounded by is polite modesty or self-deprecation. However, when we look at Jesus, we see that he refuses to be politely modest or to minimize his status as the Son of God. In the message, we looked at several verses where Jesus is bold about who He is, including [Luke 4:14-30](#) and [John 8:12-59](#). The confidence that Jesus had in His identity was essential for Jesus being able to do what God asked Him to do.
- 2) In [Romans 12:3](#), Paul instructs everyone to not think of themselves more highly than they ought, but to think of themselves with sober judgment. The Bible teaches that we, like Jesus, need to be able to assess ourselves honestly and know who we are.
- 3) Instead of the common, everyday definition of humility, we should think about Biblical humility as not thinking less of ourselves, but thinking of ourselves less (often), and thinking of others more often ([Philippians 2:3-4](#)). Pastor Tilden noted that contemporary research in psychology has also converged on this authentic, Biblical definition of humility.
- 4) It's not easy to accurately assess ourselves. We tend to overestimate our abilities (like driving), or underestimate our abilities when we are insecure or afraid of failure. But God's grace makes honest self-appraisal possible. When we know God loves us unconditionally and that He has fully accepted us through His grace that was sealed by Jesus' death on the cross, we don't need to ride the roller coaster of seeing ourselves through the eyes of other people, or even our own eyes.
- 5) When we are confident of God's love, we can be courageous in the way we engage with life and think about making a difference in the lives of others. Pastor Tilden shared the story of Claudette Colvin, who, as a 15 year old in Montgomery, Alabama, was a bold pioneer in the civil rights movement and helped inspire Rosa Parks. Common, everyday humility will never make us courageous; we need the humility that Jesus had if we are going to fulfill God's purpose for our lives.

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - What are the typical examples of humility that we see in our culture today, and what are the exceptional examples of humility? How can you tell if someone is authentically humble or just acting that way?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - Consider [Luke 4:14-30](#) and [John 8:12-59](#). Was Jesus being humble in these interactions? What about when Jesus was dying on the cross? Discuss the definition of humility as "not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less." How would this change the way you think about yourself, and the way you think about others? How would this practically apply to the way you live?
- 3) **DO** - Are there ways you value yourself too highly or too lowly? Ask God for help in thinking of yourself with sober judgment. Then, ask God this week for helping to grow in real Jesus-like humility, and look for opportunities to think more about others and less about yourself, and to be courageous in serving others. When you face an insecurity or fear, spend some time seeing yourself through God's eyes, and remember His unconditional love and grace for you!