

Humility

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I. Introduction.

- A. US Senate Chaplain said most people do not reject Jesus Christ—they reject a caricature of you.
- B. Caricaturists exaggerate certain features by twisting the original version to the point of absurdity.
- C. Most of us who grow up in a Christian home have to overcome a caricature of Christ and have to overcome portraying a caricature of him.

II. Ephesians 4:1-3.

- A. Paul calls himself a prisoner of the Lord.
 - 1. We need to see God working in all circumstances.
- B. Paul entreats the reader to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord.
 - 1. We need to be willing to entreat others.
 - a. Personal example of being entreated for making prayer professional.
 - 2. We have been called to walk just as Jesus walked.
 - a. Example of focusing a camera—two images come together.
 - b. We need to bring our lives into congruence with Jesus' life.
 - 1) We cannot consider these as a means to an end.
 - 2) Our merits come by His grace appropriated through faith.
- C. Jesus is walking with humility, meekness, patience, and is a peace-maker.

III. Characteristics of Christ.

- A. Humility.
 - 1. God calls his people to humble themselves, pray, and seek him. (2 Chronicles 7:14)
 - a. Good things can either be a boon or a blessing.
 - b. Sometimes having much hardens your heart.
 - 2. Humility is the secret for rest. (Matthew 11:29)

- a. Personal example of an accident in a foreign country.
- 3. God dwells with the contrite of heart. (Isaiah 57:15)
- 4. God loves that we would walk humbly. (Micah 6:8)
 - a. Humility is not thinking of oneself in a certain way; rather, it is not thinking of oneself at all.
- 5. Humility is repenting and confessing sin. (Proverbs 28:13)
 - a. Humility calls us to clean house as the Spirit brings issues to mind.
- 6. With humility God gets the glory.
 - a. God does not want to give the glory to anyone else. (Isaiah 48)
 - b. We can receive thanks, but the attitude of the heart that knows that if it were not for God, it would have been nothing, is essential.
- 7. Humility is serving his servants. (1 Samuel 25:41)
 - a. Abigail said that she was a servant to serve King David's servants even though she was the queen in waiting.
- 8. Humility pushes others to the front. (Romans 12:10)
 - a. Whenever there is competition, humility pushes the other to the front of the line. We either humble ourselves or are humbled.
 - b. God opposes the proud. (1 Peter 5)
 - c. Our days are numbered—we are fragile. (Psalm 34:4-5)
- 9. Humility is a habitual frame of mind that credits all its natural gifts to God.
- 10. There can be no love without humility.
- 11. Humility is first, second, and third in Christianity. (Augustine)
- 12. Christ did not regard equality with the Father as something to be grasped even though he had more to boast about than anyone. (Philippians 2)
 - a. Jesus was secure with who he was.

B. Conclusion.

- 1. Manifesting humility through confession.
- 2. Manifesting humility through service.

Application questions:

1. According to the speaker, Augustine says that Christianity is first, second, and third in Christianity. What does this mean? Explain.

2. Why is confession and service so central to humility according to the speaker? Why is humility so central to our own lives in the first place?

3. Which three characteristics that the speaker mentioned concerning humility stood out the most to you? What steps can you take to develop a humble attitude and outlook for yourself?
