

"Be Completely Humble" - Ephesians 4:2-6 – April 22nd, 2018

- The title I chose for today's teaching is "Be Completely Humble."
- What I want to talk to you about today is what humility will look like in the life of a Christian and especially in the life of a church.
- I need to preface this teaching on humility by noting that we can't "do" humble, we must "be" humble, as humility is who we are.

- I'll take it a step further and suggest that we'll be humble proportionate to how much we realize God in his love has done for us.
- When you realize how gentle, patient, longsuffering and loving God has been with you, you will respond in kind towards others.
- In our text today, I found four characteristics of humility that will be evidenced in the life of a believer and as such in the church.

1. Humble people are gentle (Verse 2a)

2a Be completely humble and gentle...

- What's interesting about what Paul says here is that when we are completely humble, the result will be that we'll also be gentle.
- I think you would agree with me when I say this, but someone who's humble is gentle and someone who's proud will be harsh.

2. Humble people are patient (Verse 2b)

2b be patient...

- Perhaps it goes without saying but the same is true here, such that, humble people are patient and proud people are impatient.
- If you really think about it, being impatient with someone is like saying that you and your time are more important than they are.

Romans 12:3 - For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.

Philippians 2:3-5 - 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:

C.S. Lewis defined humility this way, "True humility is not thinking less of yourself; it is thinking of yourself less."

3. Humble people are loving (Verse 2c)

2c bearing with one another in love.

- Here Paul is talking about just one aspect of a multifaceted love, in that humble people will manifest their love by longsuffering.
- This of course echoes what the Apostle Paul wrote to the church in Corinth in that famous chapter known as the love chapter.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 - 4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

4. Humble people are united (Verse 3)

3 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

- Notice here in verse three where Paul says we're to make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.
- The reason I point this out is because, we don't create unity in and of ourselves, the Holy Spirit does, and we are to keep unity.
- Sadly, in our spiritual pride and arrogance thinking more highly of ourselves than we ought we do the exact opposite and divide.

James 4:1-7 - 1 What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? 2 You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. 3 When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. 4 You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. 5 Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us? 6 But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble."

Charles Spurgeon - "We want unity in the truth of God through the Spirit of God. This let us seek after; let us live near to Christ, for this is the best way of promoting unity. Divisions in Churches never begin with those full of love to the Savior."

- I suppose it should come, as no surprise that in verses four through six, Paul would say that there is one body and one Spirit.
- This because we're called to one hope, one Lord one faith one baptism one God and Father of all over all through all and in all.
- What Paul is saying here is that in light of this there is unity in diversity, which just so happens to be where we get "university."

- One of the things that I'm learning in my own walk with the Lord is that I'm never more like the Lord than when I am humble.
- Conversely, I'm never more like the Devil than when I'm proud, which is why humility is so attractive and pride so repulsive.
- It's for this reason that scripture is replete with passage after passage contrasting pride with humility particularly in Proverbs.

Proverbs 11:2 - 2 When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.

Proverbs 29:23 - 23 A man's pride will bring him low, But the humble in spirit will retain honor.