



## Doing Life Together Series: Part 1: Gospel Humility, Philippians 2:3-8 Larry Stuart July 9, 2017

### I. Introduction

- A. "One another" passages. There are 59 passages in Scripture that talk about how we are supposed to live as a family.
  - 1. 1/3 talk about unity amongst believers
  - 2. 1/3 talk about how believers are to love on another
  - 3. 15% talk about an attitude of humility or deference among believers
  - 4. The rest are various exhortations for living in community with others
- B. You are probably familiar with many of them
  - 1. Bear on another's burdens – Galatians 6:2
  - 2. Pray for one another – James 5:16
  - 3. Be hospitable to one another – 1 Peter 4:9
- C. Why so many? Early church was made up of Jews and Gentiles, like mixing oil and water (Acts 10:28, John 4:9)
- D. Body is made up of diverse individuals (1 Corinthians 12:27)

### II. Gospel Humility is the basis for being able to live out the "one another's"

- A. What comes to mind when you think of humility? Negative or positive?
  - 1. Webster's: noun. the quality or condition of being humble; modest opinion or estimate of one's own importance, rank, etc.
  - 2. Strong's Definition – Compound of two Greek words: - *humiliation of mind*, that is, *modesty*: - humbleness of mind, humility (of mind), lowliness (of mind).
- B. Tim Keller, Pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian in NYC:
  - 1. "Gospel-humility is not needing to think about myself. Not needing to connect things with myself. It is an end to thoughts such as, 'I'm in this room with these people, does that make me look good? Do I want to be here?' True gospel-humility means I stop connecting every experience, every conversation, with myself. In fact, I stop thinking about myself. The freedom of self-forgetfulness. The blessed rest that only self-forgetfulness brings."
  - 2. True gospel-humility means an ego that is not puffed up but filled up.
- C. Gospel humility is a way of "not thinking"

### III. How do I get there?

- A. Philippians 2:3-8
  - 1. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit – reference back to 1:15,17
  - 2. In humility consider others as more important than yourselves (HCSB). NIV translates: in humility value others above yourselves
  - 3. considering/Valuing others more important than yourself – this has nothing to do with thinking poorly of ourselves or the many silly ways that we measure ourselves against each other.

#### IV. Follow Christ's example?

- A. Make your attitude – volitional element to this, I am resolved to do this, there is some intentionality behind it.
- B. That of Christ Jesus – what was it about Christ's attitude that we can follow?
- C. Who existed in the form of God did not consider equality with God something to be grasped.

- a. Jesus was confident of his identity and the father's love for him – not in a touchy feely pop psychology way but he understood who he was. (John 10:30, 17:11,21, Matthew 3:17,17:5)

- b. Implication for us is that we need to know who we are in Christ

- 1. Reconciled to God – Rom 5:10, 8:1, Eph 2:14-16
    - 2. Adopted – Romans 8:15-16
    - 3. Joint heirs – Gal 3:29, John 15:15
    - 4. Brought near to God – Eph 2:13, 18-19

- D. Instead he emptied himself

- a. He trusted himself to God – because his identity was rooted in his oneness with God (John 10:30) he was able to entrust himself to God and not worry about other things – people's opinions or expectations. (Matthew 11:19, John 4:9, Mark 14:13)

- b. Implication for us – When our identity is rooted in our oneness with Christ, his is the only opinion that matters. We are free to empty ourselves in service to others.

- 1. Relationship with God?
    - 2. Relationship with family of God?
    - 3. Relationship with those outside the family of God?

#### V. Conclusion – Gospel humility is essential to living out the “one another's”. We can experience Gospel humility by following Christ's example.

- 1. Explain to someone how the gospel can (and should) transform our sense of identity.
- 2. How much do you experience gospel humility?
- 3. What steps can you take to have the same attitude as Christ?
- 4. What prevents you from having gospel humility?
- 5. Pray that God would enable you to develop true gospel-humility

To even get near [humility], even for a moment, is like a drink of cold water to a man in a desert. Do not imagine that if you meet a really humble man he will be what most people call “humble” nowadays: he will not be a sort of greasy, smarmy person, who is always telling you that, of course, he is nobody. Probably all you will think about him is that he seemed a cheerful, intelligent chap who took a real interest in what *you* said to *him*. If you do dislike him it will be because you feel a little envious of anyone who seems to enjoy life so easily. He will not be thinking about humility: he will not be thinking about himself at all. – C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*