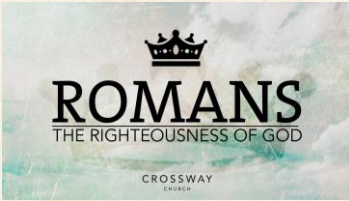


Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

Enabling Greater Humility

Speaker:

Peter Privitera

Date:

April 2, 2017

Scriptures

Rom. 11:11-24

Theme: The more we grasp the greatness of salvation, the humbler we can become.

Introduction: We all know that it's good to be humble. Humility is one of those virtues that everyone commends. This is especially true for the Christian. For Christians, humility isn't simply an altruistic pursuit. It's fundamental to our identity. Our Lord humbled himself, to death on a cross, and we are to take up our crosses and follow him. Our Lord washed the feet of his students, and taught us to emulate him. Because humility is fundamental to our identity, it is also the pathway to glorifying God with our lives. If we are to grow in humility, we must pursue it while at the same time putting pride to death in our hearts.

1. A surprise reason for our salvation (11-16)
 - a. The first reason for our salvation that we usually grasp is God's great love for us. At first, we think it was primarily about our enlightenment and decision. Then, it begins to dawn on us, there's much more to this – much more behind the scenes – I'm part of something much bigger. Our salvation is also about God's glory.
 - b. We are also saved for the purpose of making ethnic Israel jealous. Jewish people have a rightful claim on the law and the prophets – because God gave it to them. When Jews see Gentiles experiencing the blessings of God (namely, being treated as belonging to God), they get jealous.
 - c. Second, because it shows us that we're part of something far bigger than ourselves. We're part of God's plan for nations and peoples.
2. A good effect from this knowledge (17-24)
 - a. As the passage gets more personal, we get a chance to grow humbler. We are not natural branches to the tree. Ethnic Jews are natural branches. We are wild branches and the Jews are sort of like an older brother or sister in a family.
 - b. We, the wild, unproductive branches, have been grafted onto the tree so that we can bear fruit. In relation to an unbelieving Jewish person – we're the adopted siblings in a family and they are the natural children. However, they are rebellious to the desires of the Father and we are the adopted, younger children who are obedient.
 - c. While we offer the gospel, and hold Jesus out as Savior, we do so in humility and not with self-righteous anger, hatred, condescension or arrogance. If we do, we undermine the gospel.
 - d. God has given us the grace to be humble. Phil. 2:8 and Luke 22:19-20.

Questions:

1. Consider the illustration of a child receiving a gift that he thinks is small and then realizes it is only a part of a much bigger present. Can you describe how your salvation experience has grown over the years?
2. As a Christian have you struggled with being condescending toward other people groups? If so how?
3. How has the humility of another Christian inspired you in your faith?

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