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## Sermon Text Discussion 6/4/17

"The Wisdom of Humility" by Eric Bobbitt

### Overview

Proverbs helps us see the nature and danger of pride, as well as the nature and desirability of true humility. All throughout the book we are summoned to find our proper place in the universe, assume the disposition for which we are fitted, and refrain from asserting ourselves beyond our assigned post.

- 1) Who are the proud? (Proverbs 26:12)
- 2) Who are the humble? (Proverbs 3:5-7; 15:31-32; 27:1-2)
- 3) Why pursue humility? (Proverbs 3:34; 22:4)
- 4) A startling humility (Matthew 11:29; Philippians 2:1-11)

Astonishingly, we find in the New Testament that humility is actually a divine trait, exhibited most clearly in the work of Christ. God calls us to be humble because he is.

### Quotations

"Spiritual pride is the illusion that we are competent to run our own lives, achieve our own sense of self-worth, and find a purpose big enough to give us meaning in life without God." - Tim Keller from *The Freedom of Self-Forgetfulness*

"In God you come up against something which is in every respect immeasurably superior to yourself. Unless you know God as that- and therefore, know yourself as nothing in comparison- you do not know God at all...A proud man is always looking down on things and people: and of course, as long as you are looking down, you cannot see something that is above you." - C.S. Lewis, from *Mere Christianity*

### Understanding & Application

- 1) What am I trying to do essentially all on my own?
- 2) Am I inserting something in my life to squeeze out God?
- 3) Is there anyone on whom I truly look down? Why do I think I'm better than that person?
- 4) How do I respond to praise?
- 5) Am I hurt particularly badly by criticism?
- 6) How much do I dislike displays of pride in other people?
- 7) Eric said that the humble in Proverbs 1) do not esteem themselves first, 2) are open to correction, and 3) are careful about assertion and proportion. In which of these three marks of humility do you most want to grow?
- 8) In what ways does Jesus' startling display of humility help us become more humble?