

A Wardrobe of HUMILITY

Humility is a quality of being respectful of others. It is the direct opposite of arrogance, boastfulness and aggressiveness. Turn with me to:

2 Timothy 3:2-5

2 People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, 4 treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God- NIV

How many people do you know that fall into one or more of these categories? Man, did Paul leave any out? Have things gotten better since he wrote this letter to Timothy?

Lovers of themselves
Boastful
Proud
Unforgiving
Without Self-Control
Conceited

Does one of these categories have your name on it?
Turn with me to:

Genesis 11:3-4

They said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. 4 Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth." NIV

Rather than ME-FIRST, **humility** enables us to say "No, you first my friend" Didn't Paul say in:

Philippians 2:3-4

3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. 4 Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. NIV

Humility is the quality and characteristic that lets us go more than halfway to meet the needs and demands of others.

Galatians 6:2-3

2 Share each other's troubles and problems, and in this way obey the law of Christ. 3 If you think you are too important to help someone in need, you are only fooling yourself. You are really a nobody. NLT

Humility today is something that is considered weak, foolish, a lack of self-worth, not something to strive toward. Today, some would even consider humility to be a psychological disorder that interferes with success!

Do you ever hear either on the TV, radio, newspaper “Wow I want to be like that person; he or she is so humble”?

You see, **humility** distinguishes the wise from the arrogant.

Luke 18:9-14

9 To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable: 10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men-robbers, evildoers, adulterers-or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' 13 "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.' 14 "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God.

For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." NIV

Humility never denies our own self-worth, rather it affirms the work of ALL people since we are ALL made in the image of God. Remember what the Prophet Samuel told us?

“The Lord doesn’t look at the things man looks at, Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart”!

Is there humility today? Sadly, just the opposite!

If you have been following the news this past week or maybe you saw it live, a guest Comedian on the MTV Music Awards, named Russell Brand mocked the Jonas Brothers for wearing Promise Rings’ which is commitment to remain a virgin until you are married. Thank God for Jordin Sparks who is a Christian who stood up for her friends and her beliefs and showed the crowd her promise ring.

Parents – be aware of MTV and what your kids are watching!

Without **humility**, there is resentment, anger, we see friendships and marriages dissolved, peoples reputations are being destroyed because of malicious gossip!

Are you watching the political coverage on TV? How does it make you feel to hear to the bullets flying from the political arena against the candidates?.

Our nation is being polluted because of our pride, arrogance, and idolatry, which is everything that takes place of the rightful position of our Heavenly Father!

Turn with me to:

Isaiah 2:6-22

6 The LORD has rejected the people of Israel because they have made alliances with foreigners from the East who practice magic and divination, just like the Philistines. 7 Israel has vast treasures of silver and gold and many horses and chariots. 8 The land is filled with idols. The people bow down and worship these things they have made. 9 So now everyone will be humbled and brought low. The LORD cannot simply ignore their sins!

10 Crawl into caves in the rocks. Hide from the terror of the LORD and the glory of his majesty. 11 The day is coming when your pride will be brought low and the LORD alone will be exalted. 12 In that day the LORD Almighty will punish the proud, bringing them down to the dust. 13 He will cut down the tall cedars of Lebanon and the mighty oaks of Bashan. 14 He will level the high mountains and hills. 15 He will break down every high tower and wall. 16 He will destroy the great trading ships and all the small boats in the harbor. 17 The arrogance of all people will be brought low. Their pride will lie in the dust. The LORD alone will be exalted! 18 Idols will be utterly abolished and destroyed.

19 When the LORD rises to shake the earth, his enemies will crawl with fear into holes in the ground. They will hide in caves in the rocks from the terror of the LORD and the glory of his majesty. 20 They will abandon their gold and silver idols to the moles and bats. 21 They will crawl into caverns and hide among the jagged rocks at the tops of cliffs. In this way, they will try to escape the terror of the LORD and the glory of his majesty as he rises to shake the earth.

22 Stop putting your trust in mere humans. They are as frail as breath. How can they be of help to anyone? NLT

Are we different today?

We need a new wardrobe!

A man had been injured in a fire while attempting to save his parents from their burning house. He couldn't get to them. They perished. His face was burned and disfigured. He mistakenly interpreted his pain as God's punishment. The man wouldn't let anyone see him – not even his wife. She went to Dr. Maltz, a plastic surgeon, for help. He told the women not to worry. "I can restore his face." The wife was unenthused. He husband had repeatedly refused any help. She knew he would again. Then why the visit? "I want you to disfigure my face so I can be like him! If I can share in his pain, then maybe he will let me back into his life." Dr. Maltz was shocked. He denied the request but was so moved by this women's love that he went to speak with her husband. Knocking on the man's bedroom door, he called loudly, "I am a plastic surgeon, and I want you to know that I can restore your face." No response. "Please come out." Again, there was no answer. Still speaking through the door, Dr. Maltz told the man of his wife's proposal. "She wants me to disfigure her face, to make her face like yours in the hope that you will let her back into your life. That's how much she loves you." There was a brief moment of silence and then, ever so slowly, the door began to turn.

The way the women felt for her husband is the way God feels about us. But he did more than make an offer. He took on our face, our disfigurement. He became like us. Just look at the places he was willing to go:

Feed troughs

Carpentry Shops

Badlands

Cemeteries.

The places he went to reach us show how far he will go to touch us!

What an act of love and humility!

Colossians 3:12-14

12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. NIV

Last Sunday you learned about a piece of our wardrobe called compassion and kindness, today another key piece is **humility**.

In order to receive it you must shed the old self and put on the new.

But how?

Philippians 2:5-11

5 Your attitude should be the same that Christ Jesus had.

6 Though he was God, he did not demand and cling to his rights as God.

7 He made himself nothing; he took the humble position of a slave and appeared in human form.

8 And in human form he obediently humbled himself even further by dying a criminal's death on a cross.

9 Because of this, God raised him up to the heights of heaven and gave him a name that is above every other name,

10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

11 and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
NLT

Jesus loved you enough to leave his throne of glory to become one of us.

Why?

To give you a new wardrobe!

Today, are there pieces of your old self that still need to be discarded?

Colossians 3:5-9

5 So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual sin, impurity, lust, and shameful desires. Don't be greedy for the good things of this life, for that is idolatry. 6 God's terrible anger will come upon those who do such things. 7 You used to do them when your life was still part of this world. 8 But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language. 9 Don't lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old evil nature and all its wicked deeds.
NLT

Allow time reflection and prayer...

G. Tarver