

B. Our Response:

Typically, first we resist, we fight, we argue, we run...and then hopefully, finally, we “humble ourselves” in confession, repentance, submission, obedience and worship. At that point we have entered into the Christ life, entrusting ourselves to God. The God who made us, loves us and saves us.

VII. What Changes Does Humility Bring?

A. Freedom:

Freedom from the tyranny, exhaustion and anxiety of pride and self. John 8:32,36

B. Grace:

In humility we see God and ourselves clearly. Instead of talking grace we live grace and give it away to others. We become healing agents that people are drawn to.

C. Ministry:

Humility is safe. Humility forgives and has compassion. Because it comes from the Word and from suffering, it brings wisdom to almost every situation.

D. Authority:

Humility is not afraid to speak truth because it answers to an Audience of One. Gifts, abilities, resources, influence, position and power are all employed at the direction of the Master who gives them. They are empowered by Him, not us.

VIII. Conclusion:

Ron Jarrett

November 6, 2016

Message: “The Grace and Power of Humility”

Genesis 1:26-31 Philippians 2:3-11

I. Introduction:

In our culture we have a love/hate relationship with humility. We alternately admire and despise it.

II. Definition of Humility:

A proper estimation of ourselves in relation to God and others in light of who God is and who we are as a creation of God. It is marked by dependence, responsiveness and self-forgetfulness. It is freedom from the bondage of pride and self.

III. A Proper Estimation: Genesis 1:26-31

A. God Is The Center of All Things:

He is the creator God who has called the entire world into existence and holds it together by His power.

B. We Are the Center of God’s Creation:

We are remarkable beings! We have God’s handprints all over us.

IV. The Bondage of Pride and Self: Philippians 2:3-4

- * “selfishness” – selfish ambition, the desire and commitment to gain personal fulfillment regardless of the effect on others.
- * “empty conceit” – empty glory, thinking more of ourselves than is true or real. It is rooted in comparison. II Corinthians 10:12
- * self-importance – I matter more than you do because my wants and needs are more important than your wants and needs.
- * me first – a filter of self interest

These words describe a blindness and a bondage where every circumstance and every person can become a threat to our will and commitment to making sure life goes our way.

V. Humility Is the Opposite of These Things: Philippians 2:3-4

- * selfless – Life revolves around our relationship with God and others, not ourselves and our needs.
- * gratitude – I Corinthians 4:7. Everything we have, we have received.
- * others centered – Humility serves out of what it has been given and is grateful for, a rich storehouse to be shared and enjoyed with others.
- * balanced – We have legitimate needs that are important. Humility has a voice! Yet ultimately it entrusts itself to God for these legitimate needs.

VI. How Do We Get There?

A. God’s Initiative:

- 1) His Word: It addresses our inflated sense of our own wisdom, knowledge and insight that convinces us we are right in almost every situation. It does this first by reminding us of who God is.

- * He is the source of all wisdom. Job 28, Colossians 2:2-3
- * He has no counselor. He has no teacher. Isaiah 40:13-14
- * His wisdom is beyond comprehension. Isaiah 55:8-9
- * There is nothing hidden from His eyes. Hebrews 4:13
- * The hidden and secret things belong to Him.
Deuteronomy 29:29, Daniel 2:22
- * He knows the thoughts and hearts of all human beings.
Jeremiah 17:9-10
- * His knowledge is complete and overwhelming. Job 38-42

- 2) His Testing: It is the nature of the human will and flesh to resist God even when confronted with the truth about God. There is something about testing and suffering that empties us of pride and opens us up to humility.

- * He tests us to show us what is in our hearts.
Deuteronomy 8:2
- * He takes away provision to make us dependent.
Deuteronomy 8:3
- * He empties us in order to fill us. Deuteronomy 8:16-18
- * He draws up in battle array to defeat our pride. James 4:6
- * He resists our prayers to expose our sin. Isaiah 58:1-12,
I Peter 3:7
- * He tests us to teach us obedience. Psalm 119:67