



Humility

Sunday 17th May 2020

WELCOME!

Good morning everyone! Welcome to the **Croftlands Community Church** service for Sunday 17th May 2020, I hope you are all well.

I've really enjoyed, and I'm sure that *you* have enjoyed, the videos, services and studies that people have gone to the trouble of making over the past couple of months, so thank you to everyone who's been putting those together.

I'm sure that some of you have found the last couple of months difficult, I certainly have at times. But it's good to remember that as Christians we should at least *try* to have a different perspective, even if that isn't always easy. Because the Bible tells us that actually, difficult situations are *good* for us!

Romans 5:3-5

We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.

Difficult situations strengthen our character, and they remind us that God loves us, and that we are saved!



The subject of today's service is **humility**.

We always remember to dress ourselves in the morning, even though being stuck at home for weeks on end might make that a bit more of a challenge! But how many of us remember to follow the advice of the apostle Peter and clothe ourselves with *humility*?

1 Peter 5:5b

And all of you, dress yourselves in humility as you relate to one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

The word **humility** is derived from the Latin word *humus*, which means 'earth,' 'dirt,' 'soil.'

The book of Genesis tells us that man was *formed* from the dust of the earth, but sin caused us to try and raise ourselves up to be on the same level as God, or to even try to be *above* God.

And because man refused to humble himself, God had to humble him.

In **Genesis 3:19**, God tells Adam:

By the sweat of your brow will you have food to eat until you return to the ground from which you were made. For you were made from dust, and to dust you will return.

The Genesis story tells us that as humans, we are *not* naturally humble. Because of our sinful nature, we are full of **pride**.



You could say that actually, pride is the essence of *all* sin, because it causes us to believe that we know better than God. **Pride is us trying to bring God down.**

And as Peter writes, if we are proud, God opposes us, we are in opposition with Him. If we **exalt** ourselves, God brings us down, but we **humble** ourselves, then God lifts us up.

And Pride is an interesting word, notice that it has the letter **i** right in the middle. Because it *is* all about **i**, all about **me**. And the Bible has *lots* to say about it:

Isaiah 2:11 *Human pride will be brought down, and human arrogance will be humbled. Only the Lord will be exalted on that day of judgment.*

Isaiah 57:15 *The high and lofty one who lives in eternity, the Holy One, says this: "I live in the high and holy place with those whose spirits are contrite and humble. I restore the crushed spirit of the humble and revive the courage of those with repentant hearts."*

Jeremiah 50:32 *O land of arrogance, you will stumble and fall, and no one will raise you up. For I will light a fire in the cities of Babylon that will burn up everything around them."*

Proverbs 11:2 *Pride leads to disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.*

Proverbs 16:5 *The Lord detests the proud; they will surely be punished.*

Proverbs 22:4 *True humility and fear of the Lord lead to riches, honor, and long life.*

Psalms 101:5 *I will not tolerate people who slander their neighbors. I will not endure conceit and pride.*



We can *try* to be humble, in our own strength, but that in itself can lead to pride. It can lead to us say: *“I’m such a humble person,”* or *“Aren’t I humble.”*

Being humble is a proper estimation of ourselves in relation to God and to others. It is placing ourselves at the right level.

Being **humble** is when we view God as **great**, and us as **small**.

Being **humble** is knowing that we are dependent on God, rather than trying to be self sufficient all of the time.

It’s **trusting** God to meet our needs and to direct our steps.

It’s **accepting** God’s choices for our life.

It is **submitting** to God’s authority.

Pride is: Destructive, Deadly and Hurtful

Humility is: Strong, Generous and Brave

Humility is *not*: Weak, Timid or Feeble

Humility gives us: Reward, Rest, Peace and Freedom

Humility is helped by: Gratitude

*And I don't know about you, but despite the last couple of months being extremely challenging, and often pretty difficult, one thing it **has** definitely brought out in me is an increased sense of **gratitude**.*

*Things that I used to take for granted I've really come to **appreciate** and be **grateful** for recently. Like having enough food, and enough toilet roll! Like having a garden, being able to go for a walk and sunshine.*

*Those things I've always had in my life, but I'm now really **thankful** for them, and I want to remain thankful for them, even after all our restrictions are lifted.*

*It's an example of a difficult situation that has brought out something **positive**, like I mentioned at the start.*





As we look to be more humble than we are at the moment, Jesus **has** to be our number one example. In [Matthew 11:29](#), Jesus says: *Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls.*

*When we humble ourselves before God, we can find **rest**, we can find **peace** and we can find **freedom**. God opposes the proud, but He gives Grace to the humble.*

We'll finish by looking at the first eleven verses of [Philippians 2: 1-11](#), which encapsulates all of this really well.

Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate?

Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose.

Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.

You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges.

He took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.

Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.



God, thank you that you are patient with us, and thank you that because of Jesus we can have a brand new start every day.

Please help us to give you all the glory, and to lift you up. Help us to be more dependent on you, rather than trying to deal with everything ourselves.

We trust you to meet our needs and to direct our paths, we want to follow your plan for our lives and we choose to submit to your authority.

I pray that every single one of us will know your presence during this challenging time.

In Jesus name, Amen.

That's it for our service today, I hope you've got something from it. We'll finish by sharing in the grace, like we do when we're together.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the holy spirit, be with us all, evermore. Amen.

Bless you all, and hopefully see you soon!