

CONNECT GROUP NOTES

Sunday 26.11.2023

“Humility”

Preacher

Rev. Doc. Adam Dodds

Scripture

“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 one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.”

Colossians 3:12-15

Thought

Christmas can be a chaotic and busy time, but in the midst of this, God wishes to send His Peace, so that in turn, we can spread the heart of God wherever we go.

Humility is unique amongst the Christian virtues, because as soon as we think we have it, we don’t. Christ commands us to clothe ourselves in humility. Zephaniah chapter 2 commands us to seek humility.

God dwells with the humble. There’s something about living close to the presence of God - there’s nothing quite like it. We’re made for Him, yet we live so much of our lives with God at a distance. Our ultimate fulfilment



comes not from enacting power and control, but from surrendering fully to the presence of God, and God Himself seeks those who are humble.

Isaiah 57:15 says "I dwell in the high and holy place with him who has a contrite and humble spirit".

In our world we have a rank, a pecking order based on who is most important. Yet God turns this upside down. He respects not our human rank, but He dwells with the humble. This means that all can qualify regardless of human position. It has nothing to do with human rank, but His benchmark is humility. It's identifying that others have infinite value in God's eyes, regardless of who they are or what they do. This is true from our closest friends or family, to those who are furthest away from our ideals, our political or religious or ideological or moral alignment

True humility is ultimately using our power and resources for others. It turns the heart away from self, from imposing our will on others, to favouring others and uplifting them. It's restoring the weak and the downtrodden. It's what we see Jesus exemplify in the gospels. He had all the power, but he used it to uplift people, to empower people and to connect with the hearts of people.

Jesus said "Greatest is the one who serves".

When we look to the cross, we realise it was our sin that put Him there. It's no longer 'the self-righteous self vs the guilty them'. The cross is the great leveller. We aim to be equally aware of our shortcomings and Christ's grace for us. We are deeply flawed, but we are deeply loved.

And so, we take all that has been given to us, be that skill or talent or resource or position, and we offer it all, before the Lord, to others. Taking the example of Christ Himself, asking for His help, we continue this journey of Christ-likeness, of increasing in humility and of decreasing in selfish ambition.



Discussion Points

1. What do I think is the key to increasing humility?
2. What do I think it means to be aware of my flaws, but also to be aware of God's grace?
3. What does humility look like, practically, when I consider my closest relationships (spouse, family or friends), and what does humility look like when I consider those with whom I disagree with (politically, morally, etc.)?

Personal application + Prayer

Dear Jesus,

You exemplify humility. Lead me on the path of righteousness for Your name's sake, and transform my heart to be one that seeks the good of others above myself. As I look to You and others, may I think of myself less often. Teach me what it is to be truly humble, and lead me in Your grace everlasting.

Amen.