



new life fellowship

**Sermon Title: Humility: The Way Up is Down**

**Speaker: Rich Villodas, Lead Pastor**

**Scripture: Philippians 2: 1-11**

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

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

*Philippians 2:1-11 (NIV)*

#### **Sermon Outline:**

Paul is writing to the Philippians, while he is in prison, but is writing from a place of joy. Paul usually writes letters because he is angry and upset, but in this letter, he is letting the Philippians know that he is grateful for their generosity and faithfulness to Jesus Christ. Although he is very happy with them, he knows there are still issues that need to be addressed: division and disunity.

We are called to be unified as the body of Christ. Unity though, doesn't mean uniformity. It does not mean that we see eye to eye on everything. We are to be united in whom we look to – are we allowing the mind of Jesus Christ to help us become more humble?

The road to humility is incredibly difficult. Do you go about your day living with selfish ambition or vain conceit? Are you exclusively self-seeking or self-centered, believing that you are the centerpiece of everything? Humility ultimately is about our heart. We can serve every day and not have a humble heart. If we begin to value others above ourselves, and let this take root in our community, then everyone starts to think about the other person.

God is like Jesus Christ because Jesus Christ is God. Jesus Christ took on the nature of a servant. The very essence of God is that he is a servant who washes our feet. **Humility is the expression of divinity.** The same Jesus who became obedient to death was exalted above all. As we entrust our lives to Him, we no longer have to live in a way inconsistent with the cross. If your life is marked by humility, you will live free from the power of the evil one and free from the pressures of this fallen world.

What does it begin to look like thinking through humility in our own life?

- Humility is a decision that we make. Jesus MADE himself humble.
- Humility at its core is letting go of entitlement.
- Humility says nothing and no person is beneath me.
- Humility is the path to freedom. (nothing to protect, no image to live up to.)
- Humility is about trusting God to lift us up.

#### **Sermon Summary:**

This Sunday Lead Pastor, Rich Villodas begins a new 9-week series on humility, giving us an overview of the series and how Jesus models a life marked by humility.

### **Sermon Questions:**

1. How does this scripture connect for you the topic that was discussed today? What words resonate with you? Why?
2. In your family of origin, was humility something valued or was it seen as a weakness? Was your family reputation based in humility or by showing the best side possible?
3. Although a good church, what issues does Paul point out in this scripture? How are those issues apparent in the church today?
4. What does it look like to consider the interest of others above yourself, in your marriage, relationships, or family?
5. What needs to change in your life, what needs to die, for you to be more “servant-like”
6. How might your attitude be different if you trusted God to lift you up as opposed to trying to do it yourself?