

Together: study of 1 Corinthians
“What Humility Does”
1 Corinthians 4:6-21
February 18, 2018 / Pastor Shawn

Five Things Humility Does in the Life of a Believer:

1. Humility Eliminates pride.

⁶ Now brothers and sisters, I have applied these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, so that you may learn from us the meaning of the saying, “Do not go beyond what is written.” Then you will not be puffed up in being a follower of one of us over against the other.
1 Corinthians 4:6

◆ **Physioō (fū-sē-o’-ō): to inflate; to blow up; to cause to swell**

3 TYPES OF SINFUL PRIDE

• **“I’M BETTER THAN YOU” PRIDE**

⁷ For who makes you different from anyone else?
1 Corinthians 4:7a

• **“I CAN DO IT MYSELF” PRIDE**

⁷ . . . What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?
1 Corinthians 4:7b

• **“IT DOESN’T APPLY TO ME” PRIDE**

⁸ Already you have all you want! Already you have become rich! You have begun to reign — and that without us! How I wish that you really had begun to reign so that we also might reign with you! ⁹ For it seems to me that God has put us apostles on display at the end of the procession, like those condemned to die in the arena. We have been made a spectacle to the whole universe, to angels as well as to human beings. ¹⁰ We are fools for Christ, but you are so wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are honored, but we are dishonored!
1 Corinthians 4:8-10

2. Humility is the Key to kingdom living.

¹¹ To this very hour we go hungry and thirsty, we are in rags, we are brutally treated, we are homeless. ¹² We work hard with our own hands. When we are cursed, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure it; ¹³ when we are slandered, we answer kindly.
1 Corinthians 4:11-13

3. Humility admonishes in Love.

¹⁴ I am writing this not to shame you but to warn you as my dear children. ¹⁵ Even if you had ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel.
1 Corinthians 4:14-15

◆ **Noutheteō (nū-the-te’-ō): to admonish; to caution, to reprove gently; to correct with a view toward a change**

4. Humility Creates an Effective example.

¹⁶ Therefore, I urge you to imitate me. ¹⁷ For this reason I have sent to you Timothy, my son whom I love, who is faithful in the Lord. He will remind you of my way of life in Christ Jesus, which agrees with what I teach everywhere in every church.
1 Corinthians 4:16-17

◆ **Mimētēs (mē-mā-tā’s): to imitate; to copy; to mimic**

5. Humility Reveals God’s power.

¹⁸ Some of you have become arrogant, as if I were not coming to you. ¹⁹ But I will come to you very soon, if the Lord is willing, and then I will find out not only how these arrogant people are talking, but what power they have. ²⁰ For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power. ²¹ What do you prefer? Shall I come to you with a rod of discipline, or shall I come in love and with a gentle spirit?
1 Corinthians 4:18-21

Discussion Questions

1. What was your “take-away” from Sunday’s message? Why did this grab you?
2. What does the proud person fail to realize (v.7)? Which type of Pride affects you most? (Pastor Shawn outlined 3 Types during the message). How would humbling yourself before God help with this form of pride?
3. If you were one of the Corinthians, how would Paul’s words make you feel about your attitudes?
4. What are some things Pastor Shawn said that “humility can do for Believers”? Which one(s) would you like more of in your life? Why? What can you do to “clothe yourself with humility” so you may experience the benefit?
5. Jesus said that apart from Him we can do nothing (John 15:4-5). A prideful attitude is evidence that we’re relying on ourselves. How is God humbling you so that you’ll depend on Him more?
6. What does Paul mean when he says “the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power” (v.20)? What is the Kingdom of God? How is the Kingdom a matter of power? In what ways is this truth relevant to your life?
7. In what ways does 1 Corinthians 4:6-21 challenge you to become a “fool for Christ”? What can you do this week to humble yourself before God and others?