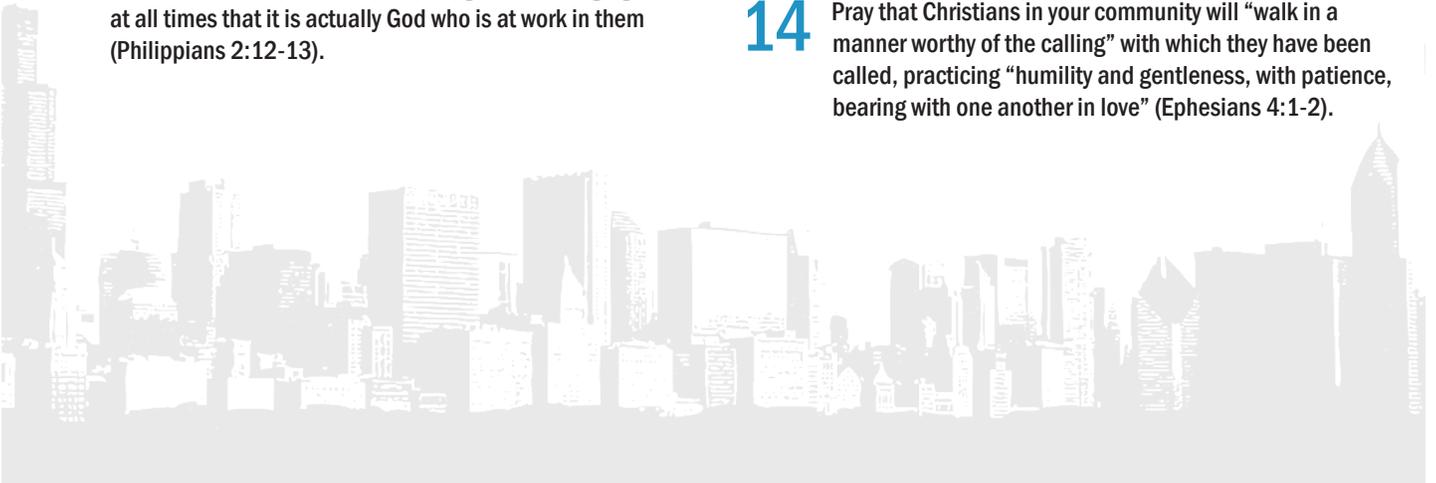


LAYING DOWN SELFISH PRIDE AND WALKING IN HUMILITY

Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility consider one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, as He already existed in the form of God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but emptied Himself by taking the form of a bond-servant and being born in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death: death on a cross (Philippians 2:3-8 NASB).

- 1 Ask God to examine your church and expose any activity that is driven by selfishness or empty conceit. Pray that He will give individuals and the entire congregation much grace for repentance (Philippians 2:3).
- 2 In a culture where selfish pride is often portrayed as a way of life, pray that everyone in your church will regularly practice humility and consider others as more important than themselves (Philippians 2:3).
- 3 Knowing that the Word of God commands us to love our neighbors (Luke 10:27), pray that we will demonstrate that love in tangible ways, looking out for the interests of others instead of just caring about our own personal concerns (Philippians 2:4).
- 4 As your church gathers for corporate worship, pray that your pastor will handle the Word of God with great humility and the anointing of the Holy Spirit (Acts 20:19-20).
- 5 Even as Jesus modeled humility through His submission to God the Father and service to mankind, pray that we as followers of Christ will do the same, emptying our minds of self and submitting ourselves as bond-servants to God (Philippians 2:7).
- 6 Jesus was obedient even to the point of death (Philippians 2:8). Ask God to help Christians in your community walk with Him in the same measure of humble obedience.
- 7 Pray for the members of your church family to work out their salvation with fear and trembling, acknowledging at all times that it is actually God who is at work in them (Philippians 2:12-13).
- 8 One thing that seemed to keep the Hebrews from obeying God's commands was their "pride of power" (Leviticus 26:19). Pray that the leaders of your church will seek God's will while fleeing from the temptation to exalt themselves with power and control.
- 9 Pray that your church family will walk in victory over sin by realizing that "the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life" are not from the Father but are from the world (1 John 2:16).
- 10 Since the beginning of the church, men have been tempted to "take pride in appearance and not in heart" (2 Corinthians 5:12). Pray that Christians in your community will lay down the pursuit of man's favor and will instead pursue God with all their hearts.
- 11 As your church family gathers, pray that God will put His convicting hand on the proud in heart, that they might humble themselves before Him (1 Peter 5:6).
- 12 Jesus said, "Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted" (Matthew 23:12). On behalf of your church family, pray that those who are selfishly proud will genuinely repent when humiliation comes their way.
- 13 Jesus said that pride and foolishness are among the sins that proceed from the hearts of men (Mark 7:21-22). Pray that God will completely deliver your church body from these sins.
- 14 Pray that Christians in your community will "walk in a manner worthy of the calling" with which they have been called, practicing "humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love" (Ephesians 4:1-2).



- 15** Pray that within your community, God will bring honor to those who are humble, but will bring a measure of destruction to the arrogant of heart that they may repent (Proverbs 18:12).
- 16** Pray that all those who have been chosen of God in your community will put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with and forgiving each other (Colossians 3:12-13).
- 17** Pray that your neighbors will put aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness and will then humbly receive the implanted Word of God, which is able to save our souls (James 1:21).
- 18** Pray that your church family will please God by being humble and contrite when convicted of sin, and by trembling at His Word (Isaiah 66:2).
- 19** Pray that the younger men of your church will submit themselves to your church's elders and that everyone in your church family will clothe themselves with humility toward one another (1 Peter 5:5).
- 20** Pray that your entire church family will walk in humility and the fear of the Lord (Proverbs 22:4). Since the writer of Proverbs wrote that the rewards of this kind of walk are riches, honor, and life, pray that your church family will remain humble if God rewards them in such ways.
- 21** By the world's standards, most Americans would be considered financially rich. Knowing that everyone will pass away like the grass, pray that the rich within your church will learn quickly to "glory in [their] humiliation" (James 1:10).
- 22** Pray that when we as Christians fail to obey the voice of the Lord our God, we will mimic Jeremiah's heart when he wrote, "Let us lie down in shame, and let our humiliation cover us; for we have sinned against the LORD our God" (Jeremiah 3:25).
- 23** Remembering how God led the Hebrews in the wilderness for forty years to humble them and see whether or not they would keep His commandments, pray that when spiritual tests come our way, we will be faithful to continue to humbly walk in God's ways (Deuteronomy 8:2).
- 24** Pray that your church will be known throughout the community as a people who act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with their God (Micah 6:8).
- 25** In their attitudes toward each other, pray that the husbands and wives of your church family will be "harmonious, sympathetic, loving, compassionate, and humble; not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead" (1 Peter 3:8-9).
- 26** Israel's history is filled with kings who did not humble themselves before God. This often led to increasingly trying times when God's remedial disciplines were poured out on the nation (Leviticus 26:18, 21, 24, 28). In light of what we are currently facing, pray that our leaders will acknowledge God and humbly lead us to walk in His ways.
- 27** Let's take a few minutes right now to "praise, exalt, and honor the King of heaven, for all His works are true and His ways just; and He is able to humble those who walk in pride" (Daniel 4:37). This is the way Nebuchadnezzar worshiped God when he was delivered from his prideful insanity.
- 28** God is quick to forgive the humble and repentant who trust in Jesus. Pray that the Holy Spirit will open the eyes of the self-righteous in your community to see their sin and cry out to God for mercy (Luke 18:13).
- 29** Pray that boasting in the Lord becomes a common practice among the members of your congregation, and that when the humble hear it, they will rejoice (Psalm 34:2).
- 30** As we continue crying out to God, asking Him to hear from heaven, forgive our sin, and heal our land, pray especially that we will be willing to humble ourselves before Him, seek His face, and turn from our wicked ways (2 Chronicles 7:14).