

Weekly Devotional
March 19, 2020

“Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.”
(Philippians 2:3-4 ESV)

Have you ever known someone who only looked out for themselves? Perhaps, given the current COVID-19 pandemic, this has been most evident in people flocking to grocery stores and wholesale warehouses to stockpile items like disinfectant sprays and wipes, hand sanitizers, and—yes—even toilet paper. As a young person, even if you haven’t been tempted to stockpile items for yourself, you probably have been tempted to do other things for selfish gain, and that’s because selfishness is a natural byproduct of the sin nature. But for those who are now in Christ, a peculiar transformation has taken place. In Christ, God takes the naturally selfish heart and makes it new—humbly and generously new—moving us from selfish ambition to humble and generous love, enabling us to mutually submit to one another’s needs. This does not mean you stop caring for yourself, but it does mean you start counting others as more important than yourself. It’s what we call Christlikeness. After all, Jesus is our ultimate example of humble submission to others’ needs. In Philippians 2:5-8, Paul points us to the example of Christ’s humility in “taking the form of a servant” and humbling himself “to the point of death, even death on a cross”. The eternal Son, worthy of all honor and glory, humbled himself for our sake. When we humbly count others as more important than ourselves—when we look for the welfare, needs, and interests of others—we reflect what Christ has already done for us, and there is something exceptionally beautiful in that. Try to seek ways this week in which you can reflect Christ’s humility in counting others as more important than himself.

Questions for family discussion, personal meditation, and/or journaling:

1. Who is someone you know who often places others before themselves? How does their example influence you?
2. Despite current limitations on gathering with others, are there any ways you could humbly serve others from the safety of your own home? This might be a great time to brainstorm with your parents and siblings. Are there people you could call and encourage? Can you Facetime with someone and pray with them? Do you have extra goods you can give to an elderly neighbor or church member, or can you do their shopping for them online (Amazon?) so they won’t have to expose themselves at their local grocery store? You might be surprised to find lots of ways you can serve others from the comfort of your own home.
3. Spend some time expressing gratitude to Christ for his selfless work in saving you through his humble incarnation, death, burial, and glorious resurrection.