

Culture Codes: Humility>Rightness

Philippians 2:1-11

Introduction:

Over the course of five weeks, Pastor Kevin is taking the church through a series called “Culture Codes.” The purpose of this series is to look at the attitudes and practices that we should be demonstrating to one another and in our spheres of influence. Each week we will look at a passage of Scripture, discuss the content, and then seek ways that it applies to our lives. This is merely a discussion guide that is meant to help you move the conversation forward. Life Group members are welcomed to utilize resources for taking the discussion deeper. When utilizing The Moody Bible Commentary for this passage, you can find the content on pages 1860-1861. - JF

Questions:

How do you define humility? How does a humble person behave (what are their characteristics)? In what ways does our culture demean or discredit humble people? In what way(s) have you, whether in the past or even now, struggle with humility? Do you ever struggle with misperceiving humility as a lack of confidence or lack of ability? Why or why not? How might humility and pastoring (shepherding) be connected?

Read Philippians 2:1-11, consider reading with multiple translations. Who is the author of the book of Philippians? Why is he writing to the Philippians? What is the point of this passage? What does that author say are characteristics/personality traits of Jesus? How are they indicative of humility? What is important about Paul’s use of multiple “if” statements in verse 1? What gives Paul joy in verse 2? What gives you joy?

Why should we not do anything out of selfish ambition or vain conceit? Share a story from a time when you did something from selfish ambition. What did you do? How did it turn out? What did you learn from that situation? How is Jesus’ example clearly humble and caring? How did Jesus look to the interest of others? Share a story about a time when you saw someone look to the interest of others. What did that situation look like? What did that person do to make it clear they were caring for others?

In verse 5, Paul tells the Philippians to have the same mindset as Jesus in their relationships. What attributes/characteristics did Paul highlight that were Jesus’? How are you at living in this manner? What do you find most difficult? Are there specific people that are more difficult for you to be humble with? If so, why do you think that is?

In what way(s) might humility be connected with the heart behind pastoring/shepherding (see message from 1/7/24 | Pastoring>Presenting)? Do others consider you humble (*It is understandable that this feels like an awkward question to answer. If you say yes, does that make you not humble? But if you say no and others do, then it might not feel like you’re telling the truth. Answer as best you can, knowing that judgment should not take place here.*)?

Why is it important to be known as humble over being right? How can you be humble and be right at the same time? Is there anything else that stood out to you in Pastor Kevin’s sermon, or in the reading, that you would like to discuss?

Conclusion:

As a group, spend time praying for yourself and our church that we would be known as humble people. You might even consider making it your aim for a week or two to consciously and proactively behave in a way that is clear that you count others more significant than yourself. As a group, challenge each other to do this and hold one another accountable.