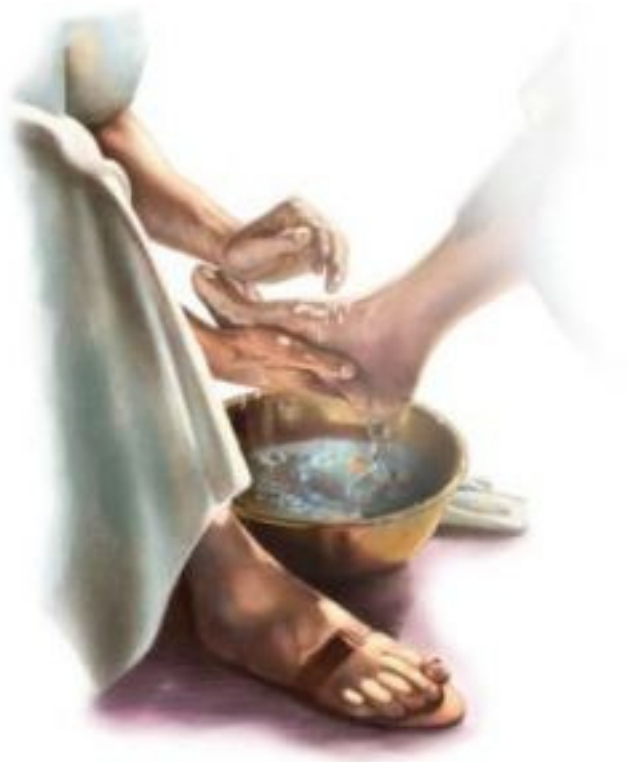


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Humility



*.... I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith
that was once for all entrusted to the saints. Jude 1:3 NIV*

Humility

Philippians 2:3-8 (NIV) “³*Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.* ⁴*Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.* ⁵*Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:* ⁶*Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,* ⁷*but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.* ⁸*And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death— even death on a cross!”*

John 13:5 (NIV) “*After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.*”

John 13:14-15 (NIV) “¹⁴*Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet.* ¹⁵*I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.*”

An elderly woman was experiencing some difficulties with her church and decided that she would go across town to another church that she had heard so much about. Her plan was not to hear second hand info about the church through the Deacons or other members of the church. She decided that she would pay a visit to the church and talk to the Senior Pastor himself to find out about him and the church. One Saturday morning, this elderly woman went to her mailbox and to her surprise, in it was an invitation to come to the church she had already planned to visit. She was invited to come and have a free meal with this church the very next week, on a Saturday. The elderly woman decided that she would get there early so she could get her opportunity to speak privately with the Senior Pastor to find out about him and the church.

Upon her arrival, she saw a man in front of the church sweeping. Wanting to speak only to the Senior Pastor, she went past the man sweeping and proceeded to enter the church. Inside the church were three Deacons and two Associate Ministers, all working to make the church presentable for the anticipated visitors later that day. The elderly woman approaches one of the Deacons and asks, “Which one of you is the Senior Pastor?” The Deacon responded, “Neither of us is the Senior Pastor, didn’t you pass him on the way in?” “No,” the woman replied, “There was only a man sweeping that I passed.” The Deacon said, “That’s the Senior Pastor.” Shocked, the woman asked, “Why is the Senior Pastor sweeping and not supervising from his office as a pastor should be doing?” The Deacon said, “Because the gentleman that was supposed to come in and sweep couldn’t make it and we still needed someone to sweep up. Since the Senior Pastor was already here and we’re all busy doing other things, he volunteered to fill in.” Still shocked, the woman went back outside and began to question the Senior Pastor who was still sweeping. “Why,” the woman asked, “Are you sweeping up around the church yourself? All those years of schooling you have under your belt and all the

degrees you've earned should put you above doing any kind of manual labor." The Pastor replied, "Yes, I have several degrees in theology, and by this world's standards, I am far above any type of manual labor, especially since I'm the Senior Pastor of this church. However, there is one degree that I acquired that causes me to serve at whatever capacity I need to when I'm not doing my duties as Senior Pastor." "What degree is that?," the woman asked. "My M.B.A.," the Pastor replied, "it stands for Mop, Bucket, Attitude. It is only acquired through a healthy relationship with Jesus Christ. No school can give it, no book can teach it, it's only through a healthy relationship with the Lord."

Unfortunately, the Senior Pastor in this story is amongst the exception in the body of Christ. Nowadays, everybody wants to be the one giving orders to those they consider beneath them. In fact, by this world's standards, when one reaches the place where they are able to avoid doing menial tasks by delegating them to those with a lower ranking, they're considered successful.

Somehow, this line of thinking has crept into the Church of the living God. The arrogance and condescending attitudes from some of the leaders within the body of Christ is shameful, to say the least. It's not uncommon to see leaders waited on hand and foot as though they were kings or queens, and I have no problem with it. However, if the need arose for them to serve others, would they humble themselves and serve? Sadly, some think they're above condescending to serve others, which is exactly the opposite of our Lord and Master's clear example found in John chapter 13. In **John 13:5** (NIV) we read, "*After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet,...*" There are a few things to consider from this verse, they are:

- Jesus got up from eating to serve; His need to eat became secondary when the need to serve arose (See verse 4). This is a clear example of "**selfless**" service to others.
- This was a menial task normally performed by a servant, Jesus had no problem humbling Himself and filling in for the absent servant.
- Jesus even washed Judas' feet, even though He knew Satan had already prompted Judas to betray Him (See verse 2). True Christ-like humility causes us to look past the fact that it is our enemies that need to be served, we will gladly serve regardless.
- Jesus being 100% God and 100% man, did not have to volunteer to do a servant's job, but He did!! This leaves the Christian without excuse to humble themselves and serve others when the need arises.

If Jesus were to walk into most churches today displaying this type of humility, He'd probably be laughed at by the saints within its walls, simply because "the world's" thinking and behavior, which is contrary to Jesus' example of humility, has found its way into most churches. Most of us have placed leaders or those with titles on pedestals, way above being a servant. However, our Lord and Master was not on a pedestal that put Him above being a selfless servant that served others considered beneath Him.

Jesus in this act of voluntary humility sets an example for every Christian to follow, no exceptions. He clearly told His disciples and Christians that this indeed was an example they should follow. In **John 13:15** (NIV) Jesus said, ***“I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.”***

In closing, Paul, in **Philippians 2:3-8**, gives us at least three (3) things regarding the humility to be applied to the thinking and actions of every born again, Bible believing Christian. They are as follows:

1. **In humility, consider others better than ourselves** (verse 3)
This was not meant for us to view everyone as superior or more talented than us. Paul is telling us that our Christian love should cause us to see others as worthy of preferential treatment.
2. **Our attitudes should be like Jesus’** (verse 6-7)
Jesus being in His very nature God, did not have to do anything for anybody. Instead of clinging to His high position, He ***“made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant,”*** In other words, He became the God man, 100% God and 100% man. However, in Jesus’ voluntary state of humiliation, He made Himself submissive to the will of the Father.
3. **Jesus humbled Himself and died on a cross** (verse 8)
No greater act of voluntary humiliation can be found anywhere. Crucifixion was the most degrading kind of execution that could be inflicted on a person. This was the type of death someone cursed would receive. Jesus did not have to humble Himself like this, but He did!!

Our duty as Christians is to humble ourselves and serve others in whatever capacity we can. Our position or title does not exempt us from serving in other capacities. When we are not operating in our usual role as Pastor, Elder, Deacon, Minister, etc., we can humble ourselves to serve wherever we are needed. We should never be so prideful as to refuse any kingdom work, no matter how menial we think it is. Jesus has left us a crystal clear example of humility; let’s follow it by serving each other, and thereby representing our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ.

God Bless,
Pastor D. M. Duncan

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