

OUTLINE FOR *HUMILITY* BY C.J. MAHANEY

CORE VALUE: HUMILITY

Goal: As we seek to embody our core values as a church, this book study is designed to help us grow in our awareness of our own pride and in our pursuit and cultivation of humility

<u>Date</u>	<u>Chapters to Discuss</u>
April 1	Introduction-chp2
April 8	Chp 3-4
April 15	Chp 5-7
April 22	Chp 8-10
April 29	Chp 11-12 and Conclusion

Core Value:

5. **Humility-** God opposes the proud and gives grace to the humble. So we desire to be a church that cultivates humility through intimate relationships, care, confession of sin, forgiveness, inviting correction, admonishment, meaningful church membership, church discipline, and gospel encouragement. (1 Thess. 5:12-13; 1 Peter 5:5b-7)

Study/Application Questions for Week 1

chapter one

1. What is humility? (page 22)
2. Why would we want humility? (page 19-20, read Isaiah 66:1-2)
3. What is God's promise for the humble? (James 4:8; 1 Peter 5:5)
 - a. What does it mean for God to give grace? (grace is God's help)
 - b. Give some examples (just share areas where you need God's help- hint- in everything, everywhere.)
4. What are some ways you can cultivate humility in your life? (see the attached list)
5. How are you seeking to cultivate humility in your life?
6. Speak of some ways you see humility in each other.
7. Share how the gospel keeps us humble.
8. Remember your eternal, internal, and external application questions: Eternal- How does knowing God keep you humble. Internal- look at 4 and 5; External- How is humility required as you care for the lost?

chapter two

1. How does pride relate to all sin in general? (page 30)
2. God hates pride and arrogance (Proverbs 8:13). Share some things you hate.
 - a. Certain foods, social misbehavior- racism, abortion, rape, etc. (page 33)
 - b. Now make the point that God hates pride more than you hate these things.
3. Why does God hate pride? What is pride? (page 31)
4. What are some phrases that can help us hate the pride in our hearts?
 - a. Charles Bridges- to contend for supremacy
 - b. See page 32 for some more phrases
5. Look at the list entitled: "Do I have pride?" What is one area of pride that God has convicted you of through this study? Share that with others and ask for accountability.

Study/Application Questions for Week 2

chapter three

1. What is true greatness? P43,44
 - a. The two paragraphs that begin, "What I find especially fascinating..." and ends with "... it means nothing less than becoming the slave of everyone."
 - b. He is not saying ambition is bad. He is redefining ambition saying be ambitions to serve others sacrificially.
 - c. Page 44 (serving others for the glory of God)
2. What stands in the way of true greatness for you?
 - a. for the disciples in Mark 10 it was selfish ambition- not ambition but selfish ambition,
 - b. it was also self-righteousness (living in the lie that you are better than someone else and thinking that this has happened because you are good apart from grace. Self-righteousness is feeling and believing you are right before God and can live rightly because of your goodness rather than God's grace in your life.
 - c. What else? Laziness, lust for rest or money or other things that distract you from wanting to pursue the good of others.
 - d. Bitterness- not being able to forgive and pursue someone in love because they have sinned against you.
3. Do you pursue other types of greatness that we need to confess?
 - a. Desire for fame. Desire to make a name for yourself.
4. What are some ways you have seen God use others service toward you to encourage your heart, to help you through a hard time, or to point you to Jesus? (this is a genuine expression of humility and don't forget last week. God gives grace to the humble. God's gaze is attracted to humility like a magnet.)

chapter four

1. How did Jesus demonstrate true greatness?
 - a. “[Jesus] is telling them not only that true greatness is attained by emulating His example, but also that true greatness is not even possible for us apart from the Savior’s unique sacrifice.
 - b. Jesus died to liberate us for sacrificial service.
2. Why do you serve? Does your Christian service exist “only to draw attention to *this* source- to our crucified and risen Lord who gave Himself as a ransom for us all” p48
3. Why was the death of Jesus necessary? p52. How does Jesus as our ransom help answer this? p 51-52
4. If you could categorize your greatest sin struggle at present who would you line up with most? The Rich young ruler who valued possessions more highly than the Savior’s words; James and John’s selfish ambition; or the other disciples’ indignation at James and John- self-righteousness or a temptation to feeling superior to others in their sin. (or if the sin of deception because you don’t see yourself in any of these)
5. Recount how God has delivered you from past sins or has given you progress in a certain area over sin. Share how God has transformed your life.
6. Has the gospel- Christ died and rose again to bring sinners to God- transformed your life into lives of intentional living (sacrificial love)? A transformed life will be a life used to transform others lives many times through the road of suffering.

Let’s encourage one another to pursue humble servant-hearted greatness empowered by Christ’s example that should result in changed lives- both ours and others.

Study/Application Questions for Week 3

chapter five and six

Remind everyone of why this study: we are seeking to embody our core values. Read the core value above. Many of these questions are great for the smaller groups. The larger group ones might be: 1 (if 1a then 3), 4, 4a,b

1. What are some ways to cultivate humility in your mornings?
 - a. What is one area where you really want to see growth? Or another way to say it is which one of these ways would you like to seek to implement and why?
 - b. Ex. thankfulness, seize your commute, spiritual disciplines (not wanting to charge into my day self-sufficient)
2. What cares are filling your mind? Take these cares to God together crying out for him to take them and for self-sufficiency to be uprooted.
3. Spend some time in prayer asking God for humility and taking people’s specific areas of desired growth to the Lord.
4. What are some ways to cultivate humility in your evenings? What is one area at night where you really want to see growth?
 - a. Intentionally transferring the glory- what can you praise God for in your day today? What did God’s grace empower you to do today?
 - b. Accepting the gift of sleep- are you sleeping enough? Allow sleep and “laying your full weight upon the bed to be a simple yet powerful reminder of our need for someone else to sustain us and the complete rest we can have in

Christ. How does this effect your day when you don't? Read Psalm 121. What can you learn about God? What promises can we cling to?

chapter seven

1. Read RC Sproul and Matthew Henry's quote p89. How do these help with your humility?
 - a. I can do nothing apart from him.
 - b. I need his grace.
 - c. Although Almighty he has helped me, so I can in humility consider others better than myself.
2. How does the fact that God saves us and we cannot save ourselves keep us humble?
 - a. Ephesians 2:8-10
3. What are some other ways to cultivate humility?
 - a. Create leisure that makes you feel your need for God. What are some examples?
 - b. What is it that you do that can make us laugh? Spouses and roommates might have some really helpful material that could make us laugh. Honor one another but laughing is really helpful.