



**Sermon Series:** More Than a Sidekick: Serving Alongside Others

**To be used with Session 5:** Haman

**Sermon Title Possibilities:** Those Who Are Humble. . .

**Scripture:** Philippians 2:3-5

**Connection with Unit Theme:** To complement the Bible study “Haman,” this sermon builds upon today’s study by expounding upon the characteristics of humility outlined in Philippians 2. Humility is not a nebulous concept that cannot be adopted as the passage we are studying provides tangible ways to practice humility on a regular basis.

**Introduction:** As soon as our children and grandchildren learn the art of using words, they will hurry to get our attention. One of their favorite phrases may be, “Look at me!” When we turn to give them our attention, they will perform an amazing task in hopes of gaining our approval. Adults are prone to the same behavior. We also want others to look at us and applaud our efforts. This seems to be a part of our nature. Yet Scripture says, “God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble” (Jas. 4:6). Today’s message is one in which we will explore the characteristics of humility as outlined in the Bible and determine the best ways to live out these characteristics daily.

**1. The humble do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit (Phil. 2:3).**

It is always good to learn what to do and what not to do. This passage starts with the command of what not to do. If humility is our goal, then we are to do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit. Nothing is an all-inclusive word. Therefore, if we are to apply this word to the command, we will flee from selfish ambition and conceit in our words, thoughts, and actions.

If we are to live out this command, then we need to know what it means. When someone is selfishly ambitious, they are operating from a position of pride. Operating from a position of pride leads to a conceited mindset in which we believe we are better than everyone else. A selfish Christian (or a conceited Christian) are two words that contradict each other. Therefore, we need to protect ourselves from this in all things.

**2. The humble consider others first (Phil. 2:3).**

As we set aside selfish ambition and conceit, we are called to consider others more important than ourselves. We can find a couple of truths in this section of Scripture that can quickly lead to application. First, we see that this too is a command. When a parent commands a child not to play in the street, the command is given out of love for the child. In a similar

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manner, God's commands are given in love. He knows what is best for His children and His commands are meant for our good.

The second truth is found in the meaning of the phrase itself. In studying the original language, we can see that considering others as more important than ourselves is reaching a conclusion based on careful and intentional study. When we seek to lift others up, value others, and operate in humility, this is not based on a false humility. Instead, the person who applies this verse has personally sought ways to consider their family members, co-workers, classmates, neighbors, and others as more important than themselves. As they strive to live out this command, they cannot help but to look out for the interest of others.

### **3. The humble look out for others (Phil. 2:4).**

If we are honest with ourselves, we would need to confess that we are highly intentional. When we go to our favorite restaurant, we are intentional with what we order. If we are trying to lose a couple of pounds, we are even more intentional with what we eat. Since we are intentional, we are empowered to live out this next command in our effort to be humble.

Scripture commands us to not only look out for our own interests, but to also look out for the interests of others. The phrase “look out” shows a great deal of intentionality. The Bible is not commanding us to ignore our own interests. We need to intentionally take care of ourselves too. But in taking care of ourselves, we also need to intentionally look out for those around us. If we see someone heading towards danger, we need to warn them as this is looking out for their interests. This danger can be a sin that is trying to entangle them. This danger can also be living a life without Jesus, which has eternal consequences.

### **4. The humble are like Christ (Phil. 2:5).**

Finally, the humble are to be like Jesus. If anyone deserved to be recognized at every gathering, it was Jesus. But, in looking at His life and the pattern that He set for us, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death—even to death on a cross (v. 8). Our calling as His follower is to adopt this same attitude as that of Christ Jesus. To adopt means to take something and make it our own. We know how He lived because we see it clearly displayed throughout the Bible. We too can live this way, but we cannot live this way apart from Him. Therefore, our first step towards humility is to admit our need for a Savior and to ask Jesus to be our Lord.

**Conclusion:** Living a humble life, and thereby living like Jesus, is a journey. The first step starts with acknowledging that you cannot truly begin this journey apart from a relationship with Jesus. If you need to call on Him as Lord today, then do not let pride stop you from that. If, however, you know Jesus as Lord and Savior, then let today be the day you take His truth, apply it to your life, and live in humility as He lived in humility.

**Author Bio:** *Tod Tanner has degrees from Texas A&M University, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has pastored churches in Texas and Tennessee. He and his family reside in Wartrace, TN and serves as the Executive Vice President of the Tennessee Baptist Foundation.*

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