



Summer 2025

Character Counts

Sermon Title: The Call to Humility

To be used with Session 3: Humility

The Point: Consider the needs of others before your own

Scripture: Romans 12:10

Connection with the Study: To complement the Bible study “Humility,” this sermon focuses on Paul’s letter to the Roman Christians where he urges them to demonstrate humility. Paul called believers to humility by considering others above themselves, just as Christ did. The ultimate example of this is Jesus, who humbled himself by leaving heaven, taking on human form, and sacrificing His life for our salvation. Our call to love, honor, and serve others mirrors Christ’s humility, which led to His exaltation by the Father. True humility isn’t just an attitude but a lifestyle that reflects the heart of Christ to the world.

Introduction: Imagine a crowded airport terminal. A flight has just been canceled, and the line at the customer service desk stretches down the hallway. Everyone is frustrated. Tensions are rising. People are arguing, demanding answers, and jockeying for position in line.

But near the back stands an elderly woman, clearly overwhelmed. Her hands tremble as she holds her ticket, unsure of what to do. Then, something unexpected happens. A young man a few spots ahead notices her. Without hesitation, he steps out of line, approaches her gently, and says, “You go ahead. You need help more than I do.” He walks with her to the front and patiently advocates for her needs. No one else moved. But he did.

That quiet moment didn’t make headlines, but it spoke volumes. It was a picture of humility, someone choosing to put another’s needs above his own, even when it cost him comfort and convenience.

This is what Paul called us to in Romans 12:10: “Love one another deeply as brothers and sisters. Take the lead in honoring one another.” Humility isn’t just about grand gestures; it’s often shown in simple, everyday moments when we choose others over ourselves. Today, we’ll explore how that kind of Christlike humility can shape not just our actions, but our entire lifestyle.

1. Humility begins with love. (Rom. 12:10)

Romans 12:10 encourages us to “Love one another deeply as brothers and sisters.” True humility is not just about thinking less of ourselves; it’s about actively seeking the good of

others. The Greek word for “love” here *philostorgos* refers to family-like love, emphasizing a deep, selfless commitment.

In a world that often promotes self-centeredness, biblical humility calls us to put others first—not out of obligation, but out of genuine love. When we see our fellow believers as brothers and sisters in Christ, we naturally shift our focus from what we want to what they need. Jesus illustrated this in John 13 when He washed the disciples’ feet, which was considered an act of service and love.

Humility begins in our hearts where we must allow God to replace our pride with love. It’s not about pretending to be humble; it’s about truly caring for others. When we cultivate this kind of love, our actions will follow. We will find joy in serving others rather than seeking to be served.

2. Humility seeks to honor others. (Rom. 12:10)

Romans 12:10 continues: “Take the lead in honoring one another.” The word “honoring” means to highly value or respect someone. In a culture where people often strive for recognition, the Bible teaches us to lift others up instead of exalting ourselves.

Honoring others carries with it the idea of recognizing the worth of others in Christ and treating them accordingly. It means encouraging, supporting and even rejoicing in the success of others rather than being envious. Proverbs 27:2 says, “Let another praise you, and not your own mouth — a stranger, and not your own lips.” When we focus on honoring others, we take the spotlight off ourselves and place it where it belongs — on God’s work in their lives.

One way to practice this is through our words. Do we speak encouragement into people’s lives, or do we tear them down? Do we celebrate their victories, or do we secretly wish we were in their place? Honoring others above ourselves is a mark of Christlike humility, and when we practice it, we reflect His character to the world.

3. Humility puts other’s needs first. (Rom. 12:10)

Paul’s exhortation in Romans 12:10 is not just about feeling love or speaking honor — it’s about action. Philippians 2:4 reinforces this: “Everyone should look not to his own interests, but rather to the interests of others.” This means we actively prioritize other’s needs over our own.

Jesus is the ultimate example. In Matthew 20:28, He said that the Son of Man didn’t come to be served but rather to serve others. He didn’t just teach humility — He lived it. Whether feeding the hungry, healing the sick, or giving His life on the cross, Christ constantly put the needs of others first.

In our daily lives, this might mean giving up our time to listen to someone in need, sacrificing our comfort to serve, or putting aside our plans to help a struggling friend. It’s

about making a conscious effort to meet the needs of others before seeking our own gain. Humility isn't just an attitude; it's a lifestyle of selfless action.

Conclusion: Humility is at the very heart of Christian living. As we seek to love deeply, honor others, and put their needs first, we reflect the heart of Christ. The world tells us to seek recognition, but God calls us to serve. The world tells us to put ourselves first but Scripture commands us to prefer others.

As we close, let's commit to living out Romans 12:10 in practical ways. Whether through words of encouragement, acts of service or simply shifting our mindset, let's seek to honor others above ourselves. By doing so, we point people to Christ, the ultimate example of humility.

Let's practice walking in the footsteps of Jesus which means considering the needs of others before our own.

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