**Clothe Yourselves with Humility**

**The Word**

Read together 1 Peter 5:1-7

**The Big Idea**

Our relationships with each other are to be marked by a humility that recognizes God’s opposition to human pride and God’s delight in Christ-like humble service

**Questions for Discussion**

1. Consider Peter’s words to church elders/leaders. What specifically strikes you about the picture of leadership he paints?

2. Consider this idea in v. 5 that God opposes human pride and gives grace to those who are humble. What particular forms has your pride taken, and how have you experienced God being in opposition to that pride in your life?

3. As you consider this upcoming advent season, what is a specific way you want to practice clothing yourself with humility?

**Digging Deeper: Sermon Outline**

I. The central command: Clothe yourselves with humility (v. 5)

 A. Humility is literally “lowliness of mind

1. It’s a mindset, way of thinking about ourselves in the world

2. “Humility is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less”

 B. Advent is a season of humility

1. We remember the humility of Mary: “Behold, I am the Lord’s servant, may it be to me as you have said”

2. We remember the humility of our Lord: “Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.”

 C. Clothe yourselves

1. In ancient world, your attire very much reflected your social/economic status. In an honor-shame hierarchical society, Peter is calling Christians to where the distinctive clothing of humility.

2. In v. 1-4 he paints a picture of humble elder leadership

3. In v. 5 he paints a picture of humility in the younger generation

II. God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble (v. 5)

A. Notice God doesn’t just ignore or overlook the proud. He is in active opposition to them. Pride is biggest barrier to encountering God, surrendering to Him, and experiencing his grace, so it’s a posture he wants to break open so he can heal.

B. He gives grace to the humble: humility is an empty vessel into which God loves to pour his grace.

 C. Notice this theme in the Christmas story

1. Zechariah’s pride (“how will I know this will come to pass?”) is put in its place as he is silenced for 9 months

2. Mary’s song echoes this theme (see Luke 1:51-53)

 D. Where do we see pride in our own lives

1. Examples: drawing attention, self-sufficiency, intellectual arrogance, performing for God and others, unwillingness to ask for help, anxiety that assumes we’re in control, lack of forgiveness, lack of apologizing

2. God is actively working against that pride, so that we might be healed and experience his mercy.

III. Humble yourselves under God’s mighty hand that he may life you up (v. 6)

A. “God’s mighty hand” is a common phrase in OT that refers to God’s power to deliver and rescue his people

B. Peter’s audience was experiencing suffering and persecution, so in the midst of their powerlessness and vulnerability, he is encouraging them to entrust themselves into God’s mighty hands, and to continue to do good.

C. There is a great reversal on the horizon! One day God will right the wrongs of their lives (whether in this life or the next)