

ActNow! (Applying Christ's Teaching NOW) follows the weekly sermon series of TPMC, and challenges us to apply and put into practice the biblical truths we hear each week. It is the recommended Bible discussion material for TPMC's Connect Groups, and leader's notes are available to all Connect Group Leaders and at the Information Counter.

TPMC Values Humility: To Receive Grace

Rev Ming Feong Ching
1 Peter 5:5

SERMON SYNOPSIS

- We know that being humble is good and is one of our TPMC values. But it can be so hard to live humbly. Why do we still struggle with pride, giving up control, needing to be right, and to show others we are strong?
- Humility means laying down our rights and taking on the mindset of Christ. Humility is enacted by Jesus serving the underserving. What makes *that kind* of Christ-like, servant-hearted life possible? Humility is about how we treat others, but more importantly, it is about our heart's posture before sovereign, living & holy God.
- Peter says God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble (1 Peter 5:5-7). James 4:6 and Proverbs 3:34 say likewise. Humility is the posture that receives grace. We do not earn grace as we do not deserve it. Grace is God's help for the undeserved and favour given to us in Christ. Grace forgives our sin. Grace strengthens our weakness. Grace restores us when we fail. Humility thus places ourselves under God's authority, God's care, God's timing and releases all our burdens to the Lord. (1 Peter 5:6-7).
- The Christian life is sustained only by the Grace of God:

Grace Flows Toward Humility

- ✓ Humility is thinking truthfully about ourselves before God, in the form of honest recognition that we are not self-sustaining, self-saving nor self-sufficient. Where there is humility, God gives more grace for our discipleship journey and needs. (James 4:6).
- ✓ Pride is a posture where we resist (oppose) God and God resists us (1 Peter 5:5). Pride refuses dependence on God.
- ✓ Grace always moves toward those who know they need it. The direction of grace is downwards from God to us, to those who know they cannot stand on their own.

Pride Blocks Grace

- ✓ Pride clings to control, thus denies our dependence on God.
- ✓ Peter needed to receive grace from Jesus via the washing of his feet. Likewise, before we can serve the Lord & others truly, we must first receive grace to put on the garment of a servant and be clothed in humility to serve.
- ✓ The more grace fills our hearts, we grow depth in our heart's posture, in humility, before the Lord. In fact, biblical humility is not a weakness, instead, it is evidence of our trust in the Lord & that our strength is in Him and through Him!

Living Humbly Under Grace. Four simple practices

- ✓ Admit our need for God. Start the day with God, check in with God before making decisions.
- ✓ Remain Teachable. Pride resists correction, humility is the gateway to growth.
- ✓ Repent Honestly. God needs us not in perfection but repentance.

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- ✓ Release Anxiety to God. Giving up control is an act of humility.
- Grace is *essential* to be like Christ in our Christian discipleship. We need to receive grace humbly to sustain us to be like Christ – to love and serve the underserving. By admitting our needs for God, remaining teachable, repenting honestly and releasing our anxieties to God, we learn to live under grace instead of our own strength.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

RELATE

1. Humility and pride appear in different forms in our lives. Share a personal experience when humility or pride was plainly evident. Share also your thoughts and feelings about this experience.

REFLECT

2. In our fellowship and service in church, sometimes pride rear its ugly head by our thoughts, words or behaviour. (Eg. We think we know better than others, we serve in our own strength rather than depending on God). What does God say about pride and about how we are to deal with pride in our personal discipleship journey?

[Verses to help us go deeper: Proverbs 6:16-19; 1 John 2:15-17; Luke 9:23]

RESPOND

3. We can live under God's grace by admitting our needs for God, remaining teachable, repenting honestly and releasing our anxieties to God. What is one practical step you choose to act on to grow in humility & share with your CG your discipleship journey in the next CG meeting.

PRAYER POINTERS

- Thank our God for His grace through Jesus that we can repent and come before Him to experience His grace, mercy and love.
- Pray for forgiveness as you admit that you have been self-reliant & proud and had not sought God's grace and help.
- Pray for willingness & strength to put on the posture of humility to receive God's grace. In faith, believe the Holy Spirit will empower you to be like Christ – to serve others in His grace.

SCRIPTURE TO MEDITATE ON

“Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. [1 Peter 5:5 ESV]