

CHARACTER COUNTS

HUMILITY

BIG IDEA: Consider the needs of others before your own.

DATE: Sunday, August 30, 2026

SCRIPTURE: Philippians 2:1-11

OPENING QUESTION

When have you been reminded that pride comes before a fall? *Who are some examples in history or popular culture of where pride led to someone's fall?*

SETTING THE STAGE

Philippians. Paul was the first preacher to spread the gospel in Philippi, leading Lydia to Christ in a conversation outside the city beside a river (Acts 16:11-15). He also was imprisoned for casting a demon from a slave girl, and while imprisoned led the jailer to Christ (vv. 16-34). The Philippian church supported Paul throughout his ministry, including during the apostle's first Roman imprisonment from where he wrote the letter to the Philippians in response to a monetary gift he had received from the Philippian church. The theme of the letter is joy; the Greek term for "joy" appears five times and the term for "rejoice" eight times in the four chapters.

SCRIPTURE READING

Philippians 2:1-11 (CSB)

¹ If, then, there is any encouragement in Christ, if any consolation of love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, ² make my joy complete by thinking the same way, having the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. ³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves. ⁴ Everyone should look not to his own interests, but rather to the interests of others. ⁵ Adopt the same attitude as that of Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God as something to be exploited. ⁷ Instead he emptied himself by assuming the form of a servant, taking on the likeness of humanity. And when he had come as a man, ⁸ he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death—even to death on a cross. ⁹ For this reason God highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow—in heaven and on earth and under the earth— ¹¹ and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

DISCUSSION

LOVE LEADS TO UNITY

READ: PHILIPPIANS 2:1-2

How does love lay the groundwork for humility?

How can love help us be united in spirit and intent on one purpose?

LOVE LEADS TO HUMILITY

READ: PHILIPPIANS 2:3-4

Where does humility come from to make that kind of a sacrifice? What does the mind of Christ look like in this environment?

What are the benefits of looking out for one another's interests in the church and community?

What are some specific ways you have seen someone else show humility?

How do we navigate the tension of putting others first but not getting run over ourselves?

FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE OF JESUS

READ: PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11

What do you find most remarkable about Jesus's humility?

What are some specific examples of Jesus demonstrating humility?

How can we follow the example of Jesus in displaying humility?

Who do you know who's a great example of humility?

RESPONSE

Humility is a fundamental component of the type of character God desires. Here are some practical steps for you in your quest for character.

Look around. Notice examples of humility in the normal pattern of a day. You might be surprised at how often it's practiced.

Look within. Study your own life and recall occasions in which you acted in an arrogant fashion. Think about better responses that could have been made.

Look up. Find examples of humility on the part of Bible characters. Use a concordance or other study aids to compile a list of men and women in the Scriptures whose humility mirrored the example of Jesus.