

Developing Joyful Humility

Text: Phil. 2:14-15

Date: 1-17-21 @ 10:30 am

2021 Theme: **Joyfully Displaying the Humility of Christ.**

What does joyful humility mean? Joy is inherently tied to happiness that is rooted in the Person and work of Jesus Christ. Humility is a “modest opinion or estimate of one's own importance, rank, etc.” Joyful humility is displaying these meek qualities without a somber countenance and attitude. It is not a “poor or woe is me” attitude. It is not drudgery or weakness. It is not “walk all over me”.

Last week we looked at **Step 1: Permit God to work in us (Phil. 2:12-13).**

Step 2: Put away complaining or arguing (Phil. 2:14).

Complaining reflects a bad attitude as a result of not getting what is desired. **Complaining displays a lack of trust in God.**

What are the results of murmuring?

- Hurt
- Damage
- Division
- Tearing down
- Elevating selfish opinion
- Opposition to God's will
- Hindered progress
- Stymied growth
- People being misled
- Self-centeredness
- People pushed away from Christ and the church (Taken from Practical Words Studies in the N. T. 1400)

Does any blessing or good come out of these things?

Disputing means to argue or question.

This doubting, then, is intellectual rebellion against God, and complaining is the outward expression of that doubt. A complaining or argumentative attitude does not reflect a life of calm, confident trust in God and His word. Joyfully living out the humble life presents itself in satisfaction with God and His plan.

Step 3: Act Purely as God's light bearers (v. 15).

The third step is that **we are to live blameless and harmless as children of God without rebuke in front of a dark world, shining as lights reflecting the Lord Jesus Christ.**

- **Blameless (What the Christian is to the world)** – free from fault or defect. The word means to be above reproach.
- **Harmless (What the Christian is to himself)** – unmixed, pure. It means guileless. The word mean innocent.

- **Without Rebuke** – Without fault, above reproach, without blemish.

Those words reflect the characteristics we should display as we live out the humble life. The next words describe the world we live in.

- **Crooked** – perverse, wicked in the sense of turning away from the truth.
- **Perverse** – distorted, having a twist; bent out of shape; stronger than *crooked*.

Paul is urging the believers as image bearers of God to imitate and walk in His ways. We bear the image of Christ, the Light of the World.

CONCLUSION

1. How do we develop joyful humility?

- Step 1, Permit God to work in us (Phil. 2:12-13).** Humility rests in the life and death of the Lord Jesus Christ and joyfully submits to His Lordship in our lives.
- Step 2, Put away complaining or arguing (Phil. 2:14).**
- Step 3, Act Purely as God's light bearers (v. 15).**

- Why should we desire to develop joyful humility?** Because our world needs to see Jesus, and the best way for them to do so is for us to live like Jesus did, humbly serving His Father by loving and caring for the broken, sinful people on earth. When we are filled with the confident assurance of our hope in the solid rock of Jesus Christ, He can use us. Joyful humility places shoe leather on our "sonship". As we live out the reality of being God's children, pray that the light of Christ will shine through us and draw sinners to Jesus.