

Worship Ministry Bible Study
Wednesday, August 12, 2009

Foundations of Worship
“Christ-like Humility”

Romans 12:3

For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.

So far in our Foundation of Worship studies, we have considered four concepts: Surrender, resisting conformity to the world, renewing the mind, and humility. Today, we will look again into the quintessential characteristic for all lead worshippers – “Christ-like humility”.

Many times when we think of humility, we consider that we simply are to appear to others that they are higher or more important than ourselves. This is the wrong focus. When we look at ourselves and others, we can easily focus on our good works or how God has used us. We can look at what bad things other people have done that we haven't done. True humility comes (as do some many other “fruit of the Spirit”) when we look at ourselves compared to God. God is so high and awesome, great and glorious, that no man can compare to Him. What a great gift we receive from the Holy Spirit when He shows us how truly small we are and how truly BIG God is!

Does it really even make sense for us to be proud? Do we really have ANYTHING apart from God? No, No, No – absolutely nothing. Why do we struggle with the sin of pride? It is because our fleshly human tendency is to provide for ourselves in every way. Our bent as sinful humans is to explain away our sin rather than face it and confess it. “I am just a busted, broken man who sins.” Who do I think I'm kidding? I'm not fooling my friends and other people around me. I'm no different than they. Do I really think I'm fooling God about who I am? God knew it all before the foundation of the world. Do I think anything I've done surprises Him? As the psalmist says in Psalm 139:15, “My frame was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth.” Verses 17-18 are among the most amazing in all of scripture, “How precious are Your thoughts to me, O God! How vast is the sum of them! If I should count them, they would outnumber the sand. When I awake, I am still with You.” That God Almighty, Lord of Heaven's Army, Creator, Sustainer of all life, would think countless precious thoughts toward me!

With this in mind, we are not exercising “sound judgment” when we are showing pride. Our verse here admonishes us “to think so as to have sound judgment”. Another translation says to think “soberly”. What a great picture! When we are prideful, are we not drunk or controlled by the thought of ourselves and our own abilities. Beware, that you or I do not find ourselves thinking foolishly. How foolish we look when we are puffed up and self-centered as if anything is about us. It's always all about Jesus. To think with humility, to act in humility, takes faith. Lord, may You increase our faith. Lord, may Your Holy Spirit build in me the ability to fully rely upon you, to trust You with everything and not myself. May you grant me a measure of faith to be humble before you and others. The way up is down. Help me to get down low, because the river of the Holy Spirit flows to the lowest place!