

**Men's Monday Night**  
**Christian Character / Week 2 – Humility**

**DEFINING HUMILITY**

What is humility?

It's hard to define... like love, or beauty. It's actually easier to see humility than to define humility. While humility isn't necessarily an action word, it is clearly revealed in our actions. Perhaps, C.S. Lewis summed it up best when he said, "Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it's thinking of yourself less."

We're prone to place ourselves ahead of others because normally we care more about ourselves than we do others. Why? – because over time we develop an unhealthy sense of our own self-worth:

I should get the next promotion because I have been waiting longer.

Whose need could possibly be more important than mine?

I should be first simply because I deserve it!

Humility is a state of mind. It's an awareness of where we really fit in the big picture of life. It's a realization that I am not the center of life... the world does not revolve around me, my, mine. It is coming to terms with the who we are in the light who God is, and then "living out" that reality in our day-to-day lives.

**REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

In which of the following areas have you found it difficult to display humility?

- \_\_\_ Playing sports
- \_\_\_ Relationships with a family member
- \_\_\_ When someone butts in line ahead of you
- \_\_\_ Your favorite pastime
- \_\_\_ Driving in heavy traffic
- \_\_\_ When being given an honor/award
- \_\_\_ Interactions with "know-it-all" people
- \_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Why was it difficult to display humility in those areas?

How much was your lack of humility in those circumstances driven by other's actions and how much was determined by your sense of self-worth?

Additional Reading: [1 Peter 5](#); [Philippians 2](#); [Numbers 12](#); [Micah 6:6-8](#); [Romans 12](#)

## Read Luke 18:9-14 - The Pharisee and the Tax Collector

He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and treated others with contempt: "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you; this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

1. What kind of person is Jesus speaking about in Luke 18:9?  

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2. Who is more honest with God about where he fits in to the big picture of life, the Pharisee, or the tax collector? Why was that individual able to see himself more accurately and clearly in God's estimation than the other individual?  

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3. What basis or benchmark did the Pharisee use for comparing himself to the tax collector?  

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4. What basis or benchmark did the Pharisee use for comparing himself to others?  

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5. What does Christ mean when he says, "those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted?"  

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6. Do you have any capabilities and talents you can honestly say were developed by you from scratch without help or assistance from anyone? (Think hard before you answer... and read 1 Corinthians 4:7 to assist with developing your answer.)  

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7. Who is a good role model of humility in today's culture? What do you find attractive about the character trait of humility that you see modeled by him or her?  

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### **APPLICATION:**

- Consider an aspect of life where you're prone to compare yourself favorably to others or consider yourself superior in any way. How does that detract from your ability to relate to and connect with others in a positive way?
- Pray that God will help you to see yourself as He sees you, and that you will develop a greater awareness and appreciation for all that you have received from Him. My prayer.