

## Clarifying Christianity: Walk Humbly With Your God

John 3:22-30 || Pastor Matt Trexler || 1 November 2020

*To CARE for one another in truth and in love,  
To GROW together as followers of Jesus,  
To SERVE those God has placed in our path.  
– CG Mission Statement*

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**Icebreaker:** Describe the most memorable wedding you have ever attended.

**Worship:** Philippians 2:5-11 (*Read aloud 3 times, reflect and listen for God's invitation to you.*)

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**Sermon Summary for John 3:22-30** (*Read the passage before reading the sermon summary.*)

*“Do not imagine that if you meet a really humble man he will be what most people call 'humble' nowadays: he will not be a sort of greasy, smarmy person, who is always telling you that, of course, he is nobody. Probably all you will think about him is that he seemed cheerful and intelligent and took a real interest in what you said to him. If you do dislike him, it will be because you feel a little envious of anyone who seems to enjoy life so easily. He will not be thinking about humility: he will not be thinking about himself at all.”* C.S. Lewis wrote these words nearly 70 years ago, but they are no less true today. Humility is elusive... but it is *powerful*. And it is in such short supply, which makes it incredibly valuable and desirable.

The Barriers to Humility // There are so many worldly forces hellbent on suffocating and extinguishing humility: comparison, envy and rivalry, fear and insecurity. These choke out whatever joy humility might bring. Humility looks a lot like gratitude and contentment; it looks a lot like wonder. But our world does not want us to be content and grateful. It wants us to look at what we do not have... or what we once had but do not anymore. Our culture tells us to focus on ourselves, to prove ourselves – showing people that we matter, that we're worth it. But the firm, gentle voice of humility says to deny ourselves, lay down ourselves, forget ourselves. One is the way of envy and anxiety; the other is the voice of contentment and peace. All we have has been given from Heaven (John 3:27); none of it is because of us or our actions. In Christ we have received everything – meaning we have received infinitely more than we deserve. So let us do things that are small and mostly unnoticed – that take a very long time to do well. Let us live in the light of Jesus, doing the simple things that won't get much praise in our world.

The Path to Humility // *“Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him”* (Col 2:6). Following Jesus means following Him in the path He walked. And that isn't a path of becoming greater, but becoming smaller. As John the Baptist said: Christ must increase; we must decrease. How do we do this? By learning to walk in Christ the same way that we found Him. We come to Jesus and discover His love when we realize our sinfulness – when we are at our neediest. Therefore, growing in our faith isn't moving to a place where we need Jesus less and less. It isn't about us working to become better, holier people. As we go on in our Christian lives, what we'll see is that we need Him even more. Like the Apostle Paul, the closer we get to Christ, the more we will grow in our dependence on Him. We might feel like we're getting worse, but what's happening is God is revealing what's always been there. And the cross becomes bigger for us. And the more we will experience the love of Jesus.

The Joy of Humility // Humility feels a lot like joy. It's looking at Jesus and finding Him incredibly beautiful... and so thinking of ourselves less. Christ really is beautiful. In Him are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge (Col 2:3). He is “wonder upon wonder, and every wonder true.” What we need is a deeper grasp of our need of Christ. And following Him means exploring the riches and beauties of who He is: to love His teaching, to obey His commands, to see His grace and goodness, to be formed into His image. There is a Christ, and we are not Him. There is no more freeing statement. And as we start to believe this, we will be on the path to real humility.

**Discussion Questions** *(You will not be able to discuss all the questions. Pick the ones you like. Some are personal perspective and application questions for life-transforming discussion.)*

- Which of John the baptist's words and phrases reveal his great humility? Why was he so humble?
    - What is the opposite of humility?
  - Talk about some false versions of humility that you may have experienced.
    - Compare what culture says about humility with what the Bible says.
  - Name some barriers to humility that most of us struggle with. How does John 3:27 help with these barriers?
    - What are some barriers to humility in your own life?
    - Give some real examples of how we can practice humility the rest of this year.
  - Why is "not thinking of yourself at all" not the full path to humility? See John 3:29.
    - What is the path? What specific steps can you take on this path?
    - Name some ways that Jesus becomes greater as we grow smaller and more humble? See John 3:30
  - What fruit does a person who has made Jesus the center of his or her life possess?
  - What does it mean to you that we are called the Bride of Christ and Jesus is the Bridegroom?
    - What will you take away from this sermon or passage?
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**Prayer:** As our city braces for the election, as the virus continues to increase in cases; pray for God's mercy and power to flood our land. See CG Prayer Guide [Here](#). Use the prayer guide prompts for group, family or personal use this week.

**Engage & Experience:** Humility is one of the most elusive and powerful attributes of Christian growth. We constantly battle pride, envy and insecurity. Do a biblical study of humility. Pray through what you learn and ask God to reveal areas of need for humility in your life. Think about how to be more humble at work, at home and in the neighborhood in a way that exalts the beauty of Jesus so much so that you don't even think of yourself.

This is the last week to sign up to give a Thanksgiving Box of Love [Here](#). Begin praying for the recipients of the boxes.