

Sermon: “*The Top Rung Is At The Bottom*”

- A Heart Healthy Church loves God’s Word (the Bible)
- A Heart Healthy Church will be known by its love for others.
- A Heart Healthy Church Loves to Honor and Please Christ and Is Centered on HIM In Worship

TODAY: A Heart Healthy Church will be a fellowship of humble believers demonstrating their humility with a shepherd’s heart and a servant’s spirit.

I. Pride is a judgment-inducing vice, despised and hated by God. Humility is a blessing-inducing virtue, esteemed and honored by God.

Proverbs 16:5 “The LORD detests all the **proud** of heart. Be sure of this: They will not go unpunished.”

Isaiah 66:2 “This is the one I esteem: he who is **humble** and contrite in spirit, and trembles at my word.”

A. The origin of pride

Genesis 3:4-5 “You will not surely die,” the serpent said to the woman. “For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

B. Pride and humility compared and contrasted

PRIDE – taking credit for that which is caused by God or by others in me, through me or for me.

HUMILITY – giving credit to God and to others for what they have done in me, through me or for me.

“The surrender of yourself to God that allows Him to do in you or to you whatever He pleases, no matter what people around you might say to you or do to you.”

II. Counterfeits for humility

- “Wormism” is not humility
- Sin is essential for humility

III. The fruit (or test) of humility

A. How we handle praise

Proverbs 27:21 “The crucible for silver and the furnace for gold, but man is tested by the praise he receives.”

B. How we handle success and prosperity

Deuteronomy 8:13-14 “When ...all you have is multiplied, then your heart will become proud and you will forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.”

C. How we treat others

Ephesians 4:2 “Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.”

IV. Things that foster humility

A. Failure fosters humility

Proverbs 18:12 “Before his downfall a man’s heart is proud, but humility comes before honor.”

B. Affliction fosters humility

Psalm 119:67 “Before I was afflicted I went astray...

C. Salvation fosters humility, Ephesians 2:1

V. The consequences of pride

A. God will oppose you.

I Peter 5:4-6 “All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

B. Things will go poorly for you

Proverbs 15:25 “The LORD tears down the proud man’s house.”

VI. The great example of humility, a shepherd’s heart and a servant’s spirit:

Philippians 2:5-6 “Your attitude should be the same as that of **Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God,”**