

Daily Devotional, June 8, 2021 Walk Humbly With Your God

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of others. Have, in you, the same mindset as Christ Jesus.” Philippians 2:3-5 (NIV)

In a world full of disharmony, discontent, and disagreement, how on earth do you get people to work together?

I know—that’s a loaded question. It hurts sometimes to see the state that this world is in. We live in what is the most technologically advanced civilization that has ever existed. We have the ability to communicate in virtually every single language, and even across oceans simply with the use of a cell phone. We are able to interact with almost every nation and culture, and have learned much from one another, but we still don’t have harmony in our own country.

These are broad statements and I’m sure there are places where harmony and unity may be happening. However, even if there are groups that work together in harmony they are often at odds with some other group. It would seem that the root of disharmony can be found in our inability to first see the ways in which we do agree.

In Psalm 133:1, the psalmist writes: *“How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity!”*

How the unity of the psalmist relates to what Paul writes in Philippians about humility helps us to understand the “when.” People live together in unity *when* they are not looking out for their own self-interests, but to the interests of others. In other words, *when* there is humility, we also find the beginning of harmony.

Humility is a key to truly listening and working together to find common ground, to build a better world, and to see the Kingdom of God at work. After all, Paul’s call to humility is followed by a call to have the same mindset as Christ.

The call to humility, however, is not a call to let others have their way and to take advantage. When both or all parties enter a conversation humbly, they are seeking to understand the perspective of the other, they want and seek to find places to agree, and they truly listen and help to uplift one another in the midst of the conversation so that harmony can be achieved.

Many people are hurting and fearful in our world today over many different issues, and especially those things that affect them, personally. And as the church, we have a task set before us, and that is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. I don’t believe we can allow things that are happening beyond us to affect that mission. But I do believe we need to focus on what it is we *can* do, and in the humility of service to those here in our little corner of the world, we are called to shine with the light and love of Christ.

So, yes, pray that humility can happen here; but let us also not neglect to have the humility of Christ as we continue to offer our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness, at Hope Lutheran Church, and to our neighbors who still need to know the love of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayer: Lord, today we ask for Your help to walk humbly with our brothers and sisters. It is all too easy for us to fall prey to our flesh and to walk in arrogance, but pride causes division, and we desire peace. Help us to humble ourselves and to count ourselves as equals with one another. It is then that we can love them for the unique person You made them to be. Help us to value one another in this humble spirit so that we may live to the fullest. In Jesus name, Amen.