Unchained:Humility

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, **2**then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. **3**Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, **4**not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. *5 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in very nature God,  did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; 7 rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant , being made in human likeness.8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself  by becoming obedient to death—  even death on a cross! 9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,  to the glory of God the Father.*12 Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.14 Do everything without grumbling or arguing, 15 so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky 16 as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain. 17 But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. 18 So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.

* Humility is not cowering down every day, true humility is the high life lived at a low level!
* God is drawn to humility. Throughout the Old and New Testament it’s the humble that seem to attract Divine intervention:
* Ps 18 v 27 - ‘You save the humble but bring low those whose eyes are haughty.’
* Ps 25 v 9 - ‘He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way.’
* Ps 149 v 4 - ‘For the Lord takes delight in his people; he crowns the humble with salvation.’

1. **Drop the ‘I ‘to get you ‘HIGH’ (vs.1-3)- (Hammer and Head illustration)**

In the latter part of these verses Paul identifies one big way we get in our own way: PRIDE.

Let’s talk briefly about four types of pride that John Ortberg has identified (The Life You’ve Always Wanted; Zondervan Publishing).

* **Vanity**—it’s the most common form of pride.  Vanity can be defined as a preoccupation with one’s appearance or image.
* **Stubbornness**—the pride that shuns correction…an inability to stop defending myself.
* **Exclusiveness**—the ultimate pride…a belief that others are beneath me.
* **Approval Addiction—**an insatiable desire to be approved by others.

**Live HIGH by serving LOW (5 – 11) – (Quadruplets Illustration)**

**Jesus**

H - Handed over his right to glory and power (6)

U - U turned the focus of his energy and became a servant of all (7)

M - Moved into our world. Jesus came into time, humanity, sin and mess (7)

B - Became our only means of survival! (8)

L - Loved sacrificially and completely. (8 & 9 death on a cross, exalted to the highest place)

E - Everyone, everywhere might worship God. (10&11)

**Us**

H – Hand over our rights!

U - U turn the focus of our energy!!

M - Move into their world!

B - Become their means of survival!

L - Love like Jesus!

E - Every part of them would serve the Lord!

**Questions:**

* **What is your definition of Humility?**
* **Who is the most humble person you have ever known? What made you choose them?**
* **What is the most significant truth you heard in this message?**
* **What key move will you make as a result of this message?**
* **Why do you think God is drawn towards humility? Explain.**