

02-22-15

Series: The Anatomy of a Church

The Anatomy of a Church (49)

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[Acts 20:28](#)

(Continuation from 02/08/15)

The Internal Systems-2

HUMILITY

The second attitude a Christian should have is humility.

I've struggled with pride. I'm sure that you've had problems with it, too. Humility is very elusive because when you say to yourself, "I'm humble," you're being proud.

At Living Word, when we started a church member ordered two big leather chairs with crowns at the top of their backs. Before the services started, I was supposed to sit in the chair. I tried that for a couple of weeks but didn't like it. Those chairs now sit in the living room at home. I preferred to sit in the front row of the pews with the congregation. I didn't want people thinking I was proud of myself or better than they. Sitting in the front row of the pews gives me the same perspective as everyone else: I am in church to worship God. The only difference between my congregation and me is that God has called me to be a preacher and given me the gift of preaching.

I hope that when you became a Christian you weren't under the illusion that God needed you. Some people say, "If the Lord could only save that person! He has such great talent and is a good leader." That's ridiculous. The Lord can save anybody He wants. And we have nothing to offer God. We're like the man in [Matthew 18:23-34](#) who couldn't pay his ten-thousand-talent debt. He had nothing to offer.

[Matthew 18:23-35 \(NASB\)](#)

23 "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves.

24 "When he had begun to settle *them*, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him.

25 "But since he did not have *the means* to repay, his lord commanded him to be sold, along with his wife and children and all that he had, and repayment to be made.

26 "So the slave fell *to the ground* and prostrated himself before him, saying, 'Have patience with me and I will repay you everything.'

27 "And the lord of that slave felt compassion and released him and forgave him the debt.

28 "But that slave went out and found one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and he seized him and *began* to choke *him*, saying, 'Pay back what you owe.'

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²⁹ "So his fellow slave fell *to the ground* and *began* to plead with him, saying, 'Have patience with me and I will repay you.'

³⁰ "But he was unwilling and went and threw him in prison until he should pay back what was owed.

³¹ "So when his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved and came and reported to their lord all that had happened.

³² "Then summoning him, his lord *said to him, 'You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.

³³ ~'Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you?'

³⁴ "And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him.

³⁵ "My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart."

[Matthew 5:3 \(NASB\)](#) says, "Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

In other words, when we came into God's kingdom, we came as destitute beggars who had nothing to offer. We were spiritually bankrupt. If we have anything now, it isn't because we earned it; God gave it to us. The only thing I have to offer back to God is what He gave me through His gift of salvation and His Spirit. I can't take any credit for what I am; I must give God the glory. I have no reason to be proud.

The leaders of Living Word have endeavored to withstand the preoccupation with self-esteem and the selfishness of our contemporary society.

We point out that God has called Christians to be sacrificial and humble.

The Bible talks repeatedly about humility.

In essence Jesus says in [Matthew 10:38-39](#), "Let a man deny himself, take up his cross, and gain his life by following Me."

[Matthew 10:32-39 \(NASB\)](#)

³² "Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven.

³³ "But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven.

³⁴ "Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.

³⁵ "For I came to SET A MAN AGAINST HIS FATHER, AND A DAUGHTER AGAINST HER MOTHER, AND A DAUGHTER-IN-LAW AGAINST HER MOTHER-IN-LAW;

³⁶ and A MAN'S ENEMIES WILL BE THE MEMBERS OF HIS HOUSEHOLD.

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³⁷ "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.

³⁸ "And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me."

³⁹ "He who has found his life will lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake will find it."

He says the same thing in [Matthew 16:24–25](#): Deny yourself and follow Me. Pay the price of self-effacement and set yourself below others.

[Matthew 16:24-27 \(NASB\)](#)

²⁴ Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.

²⁵ "For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

²⁶ "For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

²⁷ "For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and WILL THEN REPAY EVERY MAN ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS.