

Week 4: Cultivating Humility, Patience, Love, and Faithfulness

Speaker: Angie Sims

Wrapping up the Pathway to Christlike Living

- Discuss: What makes someone pleasant to be around?”

Humility: Getting Our Eyes Off Ourselves

- Humility is not thinking less of yourself. It’s thinking of yourself less.
- God has been so gracious to me. How can I love the person in front of me?” (Philippians 2:3-4)
- “In lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves...”
- John 13: Jesus washing the feet of the disciples
- Getting our eyes off ourselves” looks like this:
 - Not asking: “What do I deserve?”
 - Not thinking: “How am I being treated?”
 - Not focusing on status or recognition
- Looks like this instead:
 - Noticing people’s needs
 - Choosing service without being asked
 - Acting without needing credit
- Humility is what happens when I stop centering my attention on myself and start noticing the people Jesus is serving through me.
- Discuss: Why is it hard to genuinely focus on other people?

Patience & Love: How We Treat People

- “Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.” (Ephesians 4:2)
- Patience is:
 - Staying steady when people are slow to change
 - Not withdrawing when someone disappoints you
 - Not rewriting someone’s identity based on one moment
 - Being flexible when circumstances interrupt our plans
- Patience is love stretched over time.
- We are here to plant seeds and water. We are not here to be God
- Patience is love that refuses to give up on people’s story while God is still writing it.
- Luke 15 - Prodigal Son
- The Father let the younger son make his own choices and is patient waiting for him to return. When the son makes his way back home:
 - He doesn’t chase the son in anger.
 - He doesn’t give him a lecture.
 - He waits with readiness to restore.
- Discuss: What about the older brother? The son who stayed?
- 1 Corinthians 13
- You can be talented and eloquent. You could be blessed with spiritual gifts and prophetic. You could give every bit of strength and money to the poor and oppressed. But if you don’t have love – it’s all meaningless.

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Faithfulness: Showing Up Consistently

- Faithfulness is often quiet. It's not flashy or dramatic
- Consistent
- Reliable
- Integrity - showing up when nobody notices
- Deuteronomy 7:9
- Psalms 119:90
- 2 Timothy 2:13
- Our faithfulness grows when we understand God's faithfulness to us, even when we are inconsistent.
- Discuss: What does faithfulness look like in everyday actions?
 - Praying when you don't feel close to God
 - Loving difficult people
 - Serving others in your free time
 - Staying tender instead of cynical
- Discuss: How does focusing on Christ help produce patience, love and faithfulness instead of just “trying harder”?

Closing

- Fruit grows through connection – not striving or forcing things. (John 15:5)
- Humility begins when we see ourselves accurately: not as perfect people who need to hide our failures, but as people who have received grace and can now extend grace.
- Humility remembers: ‘I am a person who needs grace.’
- Patience remembers: ‘God has been patient with me.’
- Love remembers: ‘God loves me even though I fail Him’
- Faithfulness remembers: ‘God has remained faithful even when I have not.’

NOTES:
