**In Humility Consider Others above Yourselves**

**The Word**

Read together Philippians 2:1-11

**The Big Idea**

Paul calls us to a posture of humility in which we consider others’ needs ahead of our own. Only a deep encounter with the grace of God found in Jesus Christ can give us this kind of genuine humility which then joyfully counts others above ourselves.

**Questions for Discussion**

1. What was the most interesting idea from today’s passage regarding the spiritual quality of humility?

2. As you consider Paul’s encouragement to consider others’ interests as much as your own, where specifically in your life do you feel challenged to do that this week?

**Digging Deeper: Sermon Outline**

A. This summer we are exploring the “one anothers” in Scripture as a way of considering what the church is. Today’s one another is found in v. 3: “In humility consider one another better than yourselves.”

B. This passage is all about our mindset

1. Consider all the mind words: “like-minded” (v. 2), “humility” lit. = lowly of mind (v. 3), “consider” (v. 3), “mind of Christ” (v. 5) who did not “consider” (v. 6)

2. We are called out of a certain mindset

= Selfish ambition and vain conceit (v. 3)

= That prideful part of us that wants to either a) prove ourselves or b) protect ourselves at all costs. This is at the center of almost every relational problem.

3. We are called into a certain mindset

=a humility that considers others above ourselves

C. Biblical humility

1. Not thinking less of ourselves but thinking of ourselves less

2. “Humility is the displacement of the self by the enthronement of God.”

3. Pride is a very heavy way to live, but humility is a very light and freeing way to live. Consider Jesus’s invitation to rest and refreshment in Matthew 11:28-29 in which learning Jesus’ humility is central.

4. What produces genuine humility?

a. Awareness of sin alone does not lead to the kind of genuine humility Paul is encouraging here. There are many people who are deeply aware of their sin, yet who continue to be self-centered people who do not put others’ needs ahead of their own.

b. Only an experience of the grace of God can lead to genuine humility.

c. This passage is full of grace: see the grace of the gospel in v. 1 and the grace of Jesus towards us in v. 6-8.

d. Consider Paul’s own experience of the grace of Jesus in his own life in 1 Timothy 1:15–16. He came to see his life in light of Christ’s grace and it humbled him.

e. As we live more deeply in God’s grace, we will see each other in light of that grace and consider one another’s needs and interests.