

## 1. “With all humility...”

### While waiting to begin please discuss:

- (1) What hinders loving relationships within a church family?
- (2) What aspects of Jesus’ character should we see in our relationships?

### This term: “GROWING MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIPS...”

#### Ephesians 3:10, 4:11-13 - The church:

(i) proclaims the gospel (words) and... (ii) displays the gospel (relationships)

#### But...

**This term:** “Caring for one another: growing meaningful relationships...”

“With all humility”

Move towards other people

Knowing the human heart... understanding critical influences

Being loving and personal... full of scripture... quick to pray

Being real and honest both about suffering and about sin

### An essential attitude: “with all HUMILITY” (Ephesians 4:1-2)

#### Humility... and its opposite

#### Ephesians...

#### God’s response to pride:

“I hate pride and arrogance” (Proverbs 8:13)

The arrogant is “an abomination to the Lord” (Proverbs 16:5)

Consider: (1) How might we see pride within the church? (2) Why is pride so damaging to human relationships?

**I am weak... and sinful... and I NEED**

### Humility in practice: ASK SOMEONE TO PRAY FOR YOU

... the humble Christian **PRAYS** (e.g. 1 Peter 5:5-6)

= identify your troubles – and bring them to the Lord.

... pray **SCRIPTURE**

= join your life to the promises, grace, and commands of God.

Look at the following scriptures. Ask these two questions of each:

- (1) In what circumstances of life would this scripture help?
- (2) How would you turn it into prayer?

*Ephesians 4:2*, “with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace”

*Psalms 62:8*, “Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us.”

*2 Corinthians 4:16-18*, “So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.”

... ask someone to pray **FOR you**

- (1) Humility: can you think of a time when you’ve had to say something like, “Lord, forgive me for behaving like a mini-god”? What had happened?
- (2) Think of a time when you asked another person to pray for you – how did it go?
- (3) Practice making the connection between your needs and a bit of God’s word:

E.g. “I’ve been snippy with my spouse over the last few weeks. Could you pray that I live with humility and gentleness as we try to talk about difficult things together?” (Ephesians 4:1-2)

- (4) Spend some time praying.