

HUMILITY

Philippians 2:5-11

Saturday, April 13, 2019

I really hate being told in public whether face-to-face or on-line that I've made a mistake--that I've misremembered a detail or missed a deadline or done something I shouldn't have done. Inwardly, I realize that the words of the centuries-old prayer "We have offended against thy holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; And we have done those things which we ought not to have done" apply to me, but I'm afraid to let my "enemies," whether real or imagined, see any sign of weakness on my part that they might use against me and therefore I'm often angry at anyone who points out such weakness.

But, I worked in Japan several years ago as part of my decades-long career in West Virginia. Humility permeates the culture in Japan, and I quickly (although reluctantly) developed a (false) show of humility in dealing with my Japanese colleagues. Since my return from Japan I've generally retained this external façade of humility while inside resenting my perceived need to do so.

Today's reading from Philippians 2 is often used theologically as a way of supporting the Christian doctrine that Jesus Christ was simultaneously God and a human man. But this series of doctrinal statements immediately follows instructions by Paul to the Christians in Philippi, and therefore to us, that we are to exhibit both the love and humility of Jesus Christ in our daily lives.

May we all grow in Christ-like humility during this season of Lent!

Prayer: O God, during this season of the Church Year set apart for reflection and repentance, help us become more Christ-like especially in the areas of love and humility. In the name of Christ we pray, Amen.

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