

THE HOLINESS PODCAST

Podcast #4 - The Marks of Jesus – Humility

SUMMARY:

We continue our study in Romans 12 to discover that what God is doing in this passage is no less than **character** transformation. Paul introduces some character traits that come with this spiritual transformation. These changes help bring about the Christlike character which God desires for all followers of Jesus. God makes these changes and they are no less than spiritual miracles. The first “mark of Jesus” he teaches is **humility**.

KEY STATEMENTS:

“The New Testament teaches that Christians are recognized by their **character**.....
not by their charisma
not by their competency
not by their credentials **but** by their **character!**”

“We have become new creations *in Christ!* We live and breathe and grow and measure all things by our identity *in Christ!* It is not my family, my nationality or my ethnicity that defines me. It is not my gender, my denomination, my job or my vocation that defines who I am. These things are important, but **my primary identity is *in Christ!***”

“Perhaps it is surprising that the first character trait Paul describes, the first mark of Jesus, is **humility**. Yet pride and arrogance are deadly to spiritual transformation. We must not neglect this important teaching. It is heartbreaking to see those who cling to their own identity with a pride that is misplaced! Everything we are, all of our gifts and abilities come from God. We can't take credit!”

FOR FURTHER STUDY:

A) The podcast suggests that a Christian's **primary identity** is as follows:

“I am one who has been redeemed, delivered, forgiven and am indwelt by Christ through the presence of the Holy Spirit.”

DISCUSS the suggestion that this describes for believers “a self-awareness that is **saturated with humility.**”

B) COMPARE and DISCUSS the teaching in these passages to our text:

- Micah 6:8
- Philippians 2:3-4
- I Peter 5:5

C) REFLECT upon the teachings in our textual passage.

Romans 12:3 is very direct about how we view ourselves as Christians.

- Do I see myself “more highly than I ought?”
- If so, in what ways can I correct my self-awareness?
- Can I see myself as God sees me – i.e. “in accordance with the measure of faith God has given me?”
- What does an honest, accurate assessment of myself suggest in terms of my commitment and service to the Lord?

Romans 12:5 says about the body of Christ, “each member belongs to all the others.”

- Am I humbly and wholeheartedly committed to my church or fellowship of believers?
- Do I treat other Christians as though I need them, and they need me spiritually?

D) PRAY:

- ...that God will work in your life to walk humbly before Him.
- ...that Christians would live daily with a consuming awareness of their salvation.
- ...that believers would be in unity and would serve one another humbly.