

9 December 2018: Preached by Pr James Tan

Topic: The Humility of the Church

Scripture text: 1 Peter 5:5-7

1. To be "humble" means to be on the ground. Generally, we are humbled when we are proven wrong or when we have lost. However, we should not be humble only when we are defeated or humiliated. We can keep ourselves humble constantly. Think of the Lord Jesus Christ and emulate Him.

2. The pattern of humility is taught in verse 5a. The Lord Jesus Christ is the highest and we must all submit to Him (verses 1-4). Church members are to submit to the leadership as they submit to Christ. The word "submit" is a military term, which means to be arranged under, that is to follow commands willingly. When we do so, there will be unity and peace. We are also to submit to one another. The word "clothed" is a command that we "tie humility to ourselves". Without humility, there will be no learning, no obedience, and no service.

3. The principle of humility is taught in verses 5b-6. God is against those who are proud. No one can force us to be humble so we must do it on our own. It is an encouragement and also a warning that we are under the mighty hand of God. God will lift us up if we put ourselves down. We will be exalted if we do not exalt ourselves. It is up to God how and when He will lift us up. Our duty is to guard our attitude and actions.

4. The privilege of the humble is taught in verse 7. God will help the humble ones. We do not deserve this privilege if we are not humble. Prayer is humbling. The word "cast" has the idea of completely transferring a burden over. Only a humble person can and will totally surrender to God. We must know that God is concerned about us. No matter how experienced or talented we may be, we still need God's help. Submit to Him and His Word prayerfully.