

Humility and Trust  
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Last Sunday Pastor Jamie said that there are three elements to a “right estimate of your self theology.” Creation. Fall. Redemption. (I’ll add a fourth: humility).

First: Creation.

Gen 1:1 denies Atheism etc.

Gen 1:26 creating man in the image of God – every person has value, worth, and dignity.

Ps 8 sun, moon, stars, earth

How did God know?

God’s grace is seen countless times throughout His creation. Many become believers.

Over and over we see “How Great Thou Art.”

Ps 139 Omniscient, Omnipresent, Omnipotent

Second: Fall

Two great forces rule the universe. Gravity and Grace. Gravity causes one body to attract other bodies so that it continually enlarges by absorbing more of the universe into itself. Something like this same force operates in human beings. We want to expand, to acquire, to swell into significance. We are all trapped in the gravitational field of self-love: making a name, at the helm, my future, my fame, sin, pre-occupation with ourselves, I, I, me, me... or as the sign in a department store dressing room stated “objects in mirror may appear bigger than they actually are”

Is 53:6 All we like sheep...

Rom 3:23 For all have sinned...

OT – none righteous, no not one

We are all flawed and warped.

We all walk with a limp and possess a sin nature.

Therefore we understand “Amazing Grace.” For by grace are you saved through faith. And this is not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one can boast.”

Eph 2:8,9

Salvation, undeserved, unmerited, and unearned. It is totally a gift from God. Even “amazing” seems too small a word to describe it.

Third: Redemption, one of the most important and beautiful words in theology. Great discussion last week. Col 1:13-14 God has given us the DNA of godliness. We are righteous. As Phil Yancey, has said in his book Amazing Grace – there’s nothing we can do to make God love us more and there is nothing we can do to make God love us less.

But for this day – humility. The road to humility and trust centers on a new way of seeing things.

I escape the forces of gravity when I begin to see myself as a sinner who cannot please God by any method of self-improvement or self-enlargement. I cannot change myself. I need outside help. I need God’s freely given grace, salvation, justification, mercy, forgiveness, cross, His love.

And then we begin the life-long process of sanctification and trusting God through humility.

Humility could be your best friend. Pride is your worst enemy.

The proof of trusting God rather than yourself, is not how pure you are but your awareness of your impurity. That very awareness opens the door. I'm sick of it. I need help. I surrender my control to you. The goal now is to trust God more and ourselves less until finally we trust God completely. I need sanctification by grace just like I needed salvation by grace. A grace that produces humility, trust, faith, love, patience, kindness, gratefulness, joy, servant hood. The contrast between the futility of doing it "my way" with the indescribable joy that comes from trusting God and walking in humble submission is gigantic.

Is 66:2 "But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word."

I Peter 5:5-6 "Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

As John the Baptist said in reference to Jesus, "He must become greater; I must become less."  
John 3:30

Phil 2:3-8 "Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others as more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have the same mind which is in Christ Jesus, that though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God as a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men, He humbled himself and became obedient to death, even death on the cross.

Salvation, where God's grace saves us from the penalty of sin.

Sanctification, where God's grace saves us from the power of sin (only by grace can we say "no" to sin), and finally

Glorification, where God's grace saves us from the presence of sin.

Heaven is a wonderful place, full of glory and grace.  
I'm going to see my Savior's face.  
Heaven is a wonderful place.