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⁹Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. ¹⁰Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love,

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in honor giving preference to one another; ¹¹not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; ¹²rejoicing in hope,

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patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; ¹³distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.—Romans 12:9-13 NKJV

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What does it mean to *prefer* others?

Not Flattery

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⁵Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? ⁶And you know what is restraining him now so that he may be revealed in his time. —2 Thess. 2:5-6 ESV

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A lying tongue hates its victims, and a flattering mouth works ruin. —Proverbs 26:28 ESV

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What does it mean to *prefer* others?

Not Self-Deprecation

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For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think,

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but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.
—Romans 12:3 ESV

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What does it mean to *prefer* others?
Not Partiality or Prejudice

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“Romans 12:10 does not mean that we prefer one and hurt another. It does not mean that we become so wrapped in one person that we neglect another.” —Warren Wiersbe

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How can I show preference to others?
Appreciate Others' Need for Affirmation/Recognition

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“It is difficult to give a view of the ingenuity with which a large portion of mankind assume the appearance of that love which they really do not possess.

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For they not only deceive others, but impose upon themselves, while they endeavor to believe that they entertain a very considerable share of love,

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even for those whom they not only treat with neglect, but in reality renounce and despise.”
—John Calvin

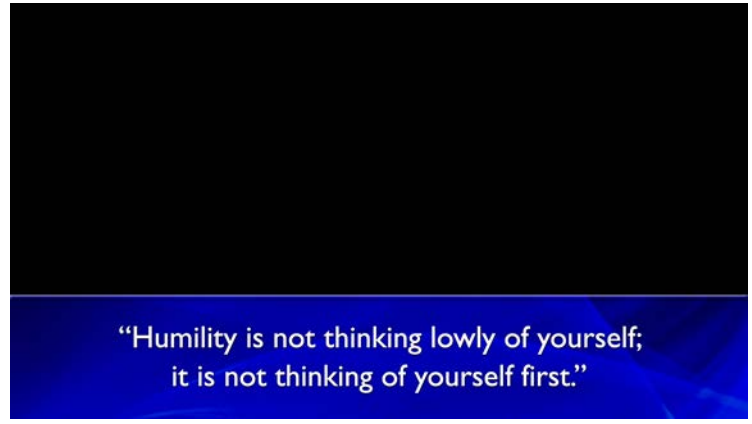
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How can I show preference to others?
Adopt the Posture of Humility

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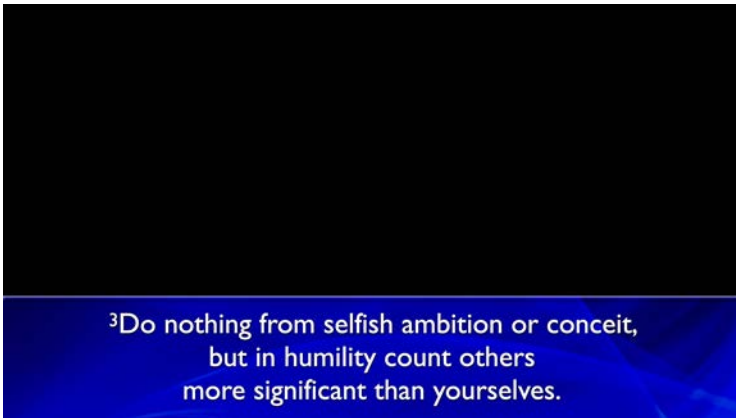


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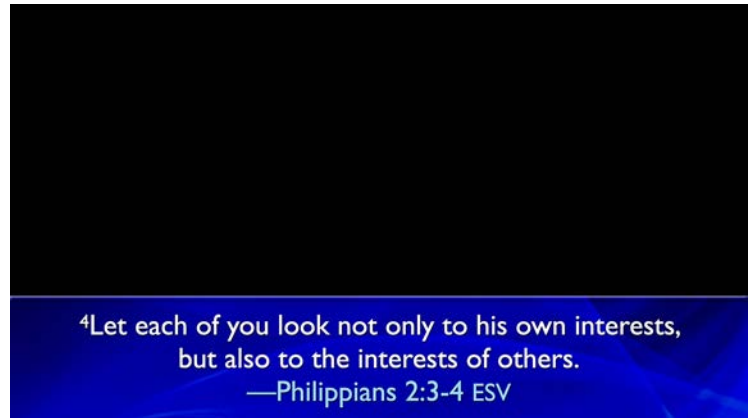
“Humility is not thinking lowly of yourself;
it is not thinking of yourself first.”

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³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit,
but in humility count others
more significant than yourselves.

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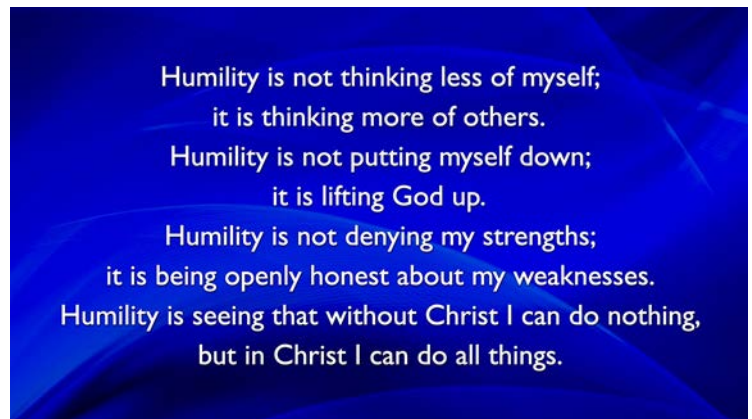


⁴Let each of you look not only to his own interests,
but also to the interests of others.
—Philippians 2:3-4 ESV

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Humility is not thinking less of myself;
it is thinking more of others.
Humility is not putting myself down;
it is lifting God up.
Humility is not denying my strengths;
it is being openly honest about my weaknesses.
Humility is seeing that without Christ I can do nothing,
but in Christ I can do all things.

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How can I show preference to others?
Aim for God's Glory, not Human Praise

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

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⁶Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time He may exalt you.
—I Peter 5:5-6 ESV

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