

Walls to Windows – Week 1
Humility

Good morning and welcome to CHC. We are grateful you are here today! Your presence matters.

Our mission is to invite everyday people to experience the hope of Jesus in every way and that is what we want for you today....to experience Jesus.

That's why we sing, we pray, and we open up the Word....because it's all about Jesus and experiencing Him.

We are starting a brand-new series of talks today that I am really excited about. Its called **Walls to Windows (show graphic)**

Walls into Windows is 4-weeks polishing up on God's design for relationships.

We are using walls to windows because for some of our relationships there are walls in the way. We can't seem to get through...We are going to see why God desires to remove the walls that separate and divide us and replace them with windows that will help connect and unite us.

This series is probably going to get a little uncomfortable at times. We are going to look at some scriptures that are convicting, challenging. You're probably going to find yourself saying, man I need to do that a little better.

2 of our core values here at CHC are focused around relationships.

1. **Healthy God-Centered Families**
2. **Real Relationships**

This is an area that all of us must continue to grow in.

So now that you are nervous...lets jump right in.

In 2002 Pastor Rick Warren wrote a devotional book called, A Purpose Driven Life. According to both the author and publisher Simon & Schuster, 50 million copies had been sold in more than 85 languages by 2020.

The thing that fascinates me about this book is not the sales. Everyone wants to know the purpose of life. The thing that captivates me is the very first sentence. Rick writes, **"It's not about you."**

He goes on to explain that finding your purpose in life doesn't start with you, it starts with the Lord.

What I believe Rick was trying to get across and the topic we are going to dig into today is **Humility.**

In every single relationship that has ever existed, humility or the lack thereof has played a part.

Jesus taught a lot about humility while he was walking the earth. Turn to Mark 9.

Background and Context | Throughout the book of Mark the author emphasizes actions and deeds. Jesus is on the go. He's healing, performing miracles, teaching, etc.

These 3 disciples, Peter, James and John were walking with Jesus as he was doing many of these miraculous things. These guys had some amazing mountain top experiences with Jesus.

Jesus casted out a demon and then said, come on guys, we have to keep moving.

Lets stand in honor of the reading of Gods Word.

Mark 9.30-35 | ³⁰ Then they left that place and made their way through Galilee, but he did not want anyone to know it. ³¹ For he was teaching his disciples and telling them, "The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after he is killed, he will rise three days later." ³² But they did not understand this statement, and they were afraid to ask him. ³³ They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" ³⁴ But they were silent, because on the way they had been arguing with one another about who was the greatest. ³⁵ Sitting down, he called the Twelve and said to them, "If anyone wants to be first, he must be last and servant of all."

Pray

So, the disciples were having an argument about who was the best. Jesus sets them straight. "If anyone wants to be first, he must be last and servant of all."

In other words, your focus must be on putting others before yourself. Jesus is essentially explaining to them the definition of being a humble person. Having a mindset of humility.

What does that really mean? **"True humility is seeing ourselves as we truly are, fallen in sin and helpless without God."**

Humility is a critical and continuous emphasis on godliness in the Bible. We are called upon to be humble followers of Christ and trust in the wisdom and salvation of God.

The opposite of humility is talked about a lot as well.

Proverbs 16.18 | Pride comes before destruction, and an arrogant spirit before a fall. (CSB)
Proverbs 16.18 | First pride, then the crash— the bigger the ego, the harder the fall. (MSG)

If I have a desire to have a healthy god centered family, it must be soaked with humility.

If I desire to have real relationships and not surface acquaintances, it must be saturated in humility.

Humility is a theme all throughout the pages of Scripture. *Is it a theme in my relationships?*

Has anyone ever met someone self-righteous? Full of themselves? Arrogant or prideful? All of us have met people, know people, or even live with people who may fall into one of the categories.

The reality is, we are addicted to ourselves more today than any other time in history. Here is how I can say that with confidence.

Stats: There are over 90 million selfies taken every single day. (If you have teenagers that may seem a little low)

Over 24 billion selfies were uploaded to the internet last year. That's a lot of us! Self is elevated.

There is a whole category of selfies gone wrong – Crime, Getting Fired, Death (death by selfie is more likely than death by shark)

There is a saying that maybe has likely come from your lips when encountering a self-absorbed or arrogant person...You need to get over yourself.

I came across this list this week and I knew this is what God wanted to use for today.

How do I know if I need to get over myself?? (About to get awkward)

1. You take everything personally.

Always defensive. I don't do that. Tendency to put up a case for yourself. Everything is an indictment. When you see others talking your first thought is they are talking about me. Victim mentality. Very easily offended.

Do you realize Jesus was unoffendable? He ate with and spent time opposite of him. He often talked to a taught people who didn't agree with him. How? He knew who he was, and he had nothing to prove.

This is a quality of humility.

Being easily offended is rooted in pride. We can't stand to be disrespected. We can't get over ourselves. **When we are humble, we don't take things personal.**

2. Your feelings are the most reasonable.

You expect everyone to recognize your feelings and thoughts make the most sense.

You need to make sure everyone knows you are right. No one can disagree with you. You are never wrong.

You are constantly overestimating your feelings and thoughts.

Proverbs 13.10 | Arrogant know-it-alls stir up discord, but wise men and women listen to each other's counsel. (MSG)

3. Your desires are the most important.

What you want verses what you feel. Everyone should want what you want. How can you not want what I want?

In a car ride --- where to eat, music gets played, directions to get to a place...we get upset when our desires aren't met.

Philippians 2.3 | ³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves.

4. The other person needs to apologize or change.

Pride blinds us to our own weaknesses and magnifies other people's weaknesses.

We justify broken relationships or conflict because...If they did this differently, I wouldn't have done this.

Jesus warns of this type of behavior in **Matthew 7.3-5 | ³ Why do you look at the splinter in your brother's eye but don't notice the beam of wood in your own eye? ⁴ Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the splinter out of your eye,' and look, there's a beam of wood in your own eye? ⁵ Hypocrite! First take the beam of wood out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to take the splinter out of your brother's eye.**

Even apologies sound like this...I'm sorry, but if you wouldn't have done this, then I wouldn't have.

5. You tend to be negative and critical instead of positive and grateful.

Your negativity has alienated people in your life. They feel they aren't good enough to be around you, so they stop trying. Your way is always the best way and the only way.

Illustration: Sissy and basketball

This leads to avoidance. If you can see that friends have drifted away, spouse has stepped back, family members no longer stay very long...it's a good indication you need to get over yourself.

The language of arrogance is criticism and negativity, and the language of humility is gratitude and encouragement.

6. When you keep thinking other people need to hear this

As we are walking through this list if all you can think of is someone else who needs to hear this..

Husband, wife, friends you're going to send this to...its a good indication, this is for you!

The more you have a tendency to see this in others but not in yourself, the more of a problem you might have.

Obadiah 1.3 | Your arrogant heart has deceived you...

If I say I don't struggle with pride, understand this.... it's pride making you believe that.

Conclusion:

That's our short list for today....the question or prayer is this...**Do I need to get over myself?**

God, search my heart and show me the places I am overinflating and overestimating what I bring to the table.

As the disciples argued who was the greatest, Jesus was trying to help them understand, its not about you.

Everything you have is from God so why do you think you can be the greatest? This is the total wrong question.

How to move from arrogance to humility

1. Decide it matters.

Choose humility over arrogance. This is a choice. This is a mindset. You may have created some bad habits, but those can be broken by intentionally choosing humility in every situation.

Easy win - Look for an opportunity every day to put someone ahead of yourself.

Walls will become windows if each of us did that this week. It's going to have a radical impact on your relationships.

Mindset---Your words are more important than mine.

Decide it matters by repenting of your pride and selfishness. In your heart and to the people it has affected.

Humility is about valuing others.

2. Develop a giving habit.

Part of Paul's address to the elders of the church of Ephesus, declares,

Acts 20.35 | ³⁵In every way I've shown you that it is necessary to help the weak by laboring like this and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, because he said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.

Our giving reflects a Christlikeness and offers a way to live out the gospel with our resources. Christians are called to be generous because we serve a God who gives sacrificially.

Giving develops our character, fostering selflessness and countering the natural tendency toward self-centeredness. When we readily give of our money, time, talents, and gifts, we step beyond our little world and serve others.

The generous person develops more virtues than the constant receiver and builds responsibility. Other virtues cultivated in our giving include compassion, kindness, joy, and love

Furthermore, **Giving fosters contentment.** When we generously offer our resources, we express satisfaction in God's blessings and acknowledge Him as Ultimate Provider.

While it is undoubtedly blessed to receive, it is even more blessed to give.

3. Practice Gratitude

The way to work on my humility is through gratitude.

Gratitude is a prominent Bible theme.

1 Thessalonians 5.16-18 | ¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray constantly, ¹⁸ give thanks in everything; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Did you catch that? Give thanks in all circumstances. Thankfulness and gratitude should be a way of life for us, naturally flowing from our hearts and mouths.

We turn pride into humility through practicing gratitude.

Close: The saddest part about this story is that right after two miracles and Jesus revealing that He is going to be betrayed, arrested, and killed for them (and all of us, too), the disciples argued about who was the best, and who was first.

Jesus did not just teach about putting others first, He demonstrated it in the most devastating way in the history of humanity.

While we are putting ourselves before God and going our own way, Jesus does not build a wall. He makes a way! And, He is inviting everyone who follows Him to see that way is possible for them to do for others.

We can turn walls into windows when we let the light of humility shine through our hearts and lives.

James 4.10 | ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.