

# PureMen

## PureMen Bible Study – Session 7 – 1/14/09

Something To Thank the Lord For?

Recite Memory Verse (2 Corinthians 9:8) & Offer Reward for those successfully reciting it.

Review Study Questions from Chapter Five – *The Root Issues*

### **LESSON TITLE: Learning The Art of Downward Mobility**

In our study, Gallagher rightly identified the two root issues of sin as **Selfishness and Pride!**

**“Genuine humility is a fruit of the Spirit that comes from true brokenness – the breaking down process of self.”** - Steve Gallagher, pg. 114

#### **Luke 9:22-25**

*22Saying, The Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be slain, and be raised the third day. 23And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. 24For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it. 25For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away?”*

#### **What does it mean to “take up his cross daily?”**

- People of Jesus’ day knew what it meant to “take up a cross.” They saw scores of criminals bear their cross to the place where they would ultimately be executed.
- The cross does not mean merely bearing one’s particular hardship in life (poor health, abuse, unemployment, invalid parents, an unsaved spouse, a wayward child).
  - The cross is always an instrument of death – not just an object to carry or bear.
  - The Christian is to die mentally and actively.
  - He is to deny himself daily.
    - 1 Cor. 6:19,20 *“What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your*

*own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's"*

- He is to let the mind of Christ, the mind of humbling himself to the point of death (Phil 2), be in him and fill his thoughts every day.
  - Phil 2:7,8 *"But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."*
- He is to put his will, his desires, his wants, his ambitions to death. In their stead, he is to follow Jesus and to do His will all day long.
  - We need to realize that whatever plans Jesus has for us are infinitely better than ANYTHING we could think of or dream of for ourselves!

### **How does a believer die to self?**

- Romans 6:11-13 spells it out clearly: *"<sup>11</sup>Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. <sup>12</sup>Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. <sup>13</sup>Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God."*
  - **The believer reckons himself crucified with Christ.**
    - V.11 above,
    - Gal 2:20 *"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."*
  - **The believer reckons himself dead to sin, but alive to God.**
    - V. 11 above,
    - 1 Peter 4:2 *"That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God."*
  - **The believer does not let sin reign in his body**
    - V. 12 above,
    - Col 3:5 *"Mortify [putting to death] therefore your members..."*
  - **The believer does not yield his members as instruments of sin**
    - V. 13 Above,
    - Romans 8:13 *"For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live."*
  - **The believer yields himself to God.**

- V. 13 Above,
  - Romans 12:1 *“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.”*
- **The believer yields his bodily members as instruments of righteousness**
    - V. 13 Above,
    - Gal 5:16 *“...Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.”*

**If Pride is the Cancer of the Soul – there is Good News! This cancer can be CURED! And the cure is found in SERVANTHOOD!**

**Follow the Glorious Example of Jesus Christ. Jesus showed us that the path to greatness is not up – but down!**

**To become great in God’s eyes, we don’t “climb the ladder of success.”**

**Rather, we humble ourselves and pour out lives into serving others.**

**In a sense, we practice the Art of Downward Mobility!**

**Philippians 2:3-8**

*“<sup>3</sup>Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. <sup>4</sup>Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. <sup>5</sup>Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: <sup>6</sup>Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: <sup>7</sup>But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: <sup>8</sup>And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”*

**Let me challenge each of you to put this into practice this week. An additional Summit Stretch Challenge this week is to just simply find someone to serve. Maybe it’s shoveling their driveway or coming to the aid of a stranded motorist – or possibly just being a friend to the lowly. Simply ask the Lord to put someone in your path that you can serve this week – and as humbly as you know how, show them the love of God. See if that doesn’t help you deny yourself this week.**

**Close in PRAYER!**