

E. Jesus promises every humble act of service will be rewarded.

For truly, I say to you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ will by no means lose his reward. Mark 9:41 (ESV)

3. Conclusion

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:3–11 (ESV)

Life Group Questions

1. Read Mark 9:30-41. In this passage, God promises to reward those who give up pursuing pride and position to pursue humility and service to others. According to these verses, how does God reward those who pursue humility and serving others like Jesus? How does pride show up in the way we treat one another at CrossWinds? What might it look like to pursue humility at CrossWinds?
2. It is often said that our impact on others is not one single act but many acts of service piled together. Read the story of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:25-37. Make a list of the ways he humbly served the man who was robbed. What can we learn from this?
3. In Luke 18:35-42 and 19:1-10, Jesus loved and cared for people that others ignored. What might be some modern-day equivalents to the people we see Jesus reaching out to in these verses that we can humbly serve?
4. Consider the ditch of narrow-minded theological precision that needlessly breaks Christians into small disconnected groups. As a church, where are we in danger of falling into that ditch? How are you in danger of falling into that ditch in your own life?
5. Consider the ditch of being too open-minded and becoming indifferent to doctrine and theological distinctions. As a church, where are we in danger of falling into that ditch? How are you in danger of falling into that ditch in your own life?



Mark 9:30-41 – The Way Up Is Down

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1. Jesus' life shows us what humility looks like.

They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he did not want anyone to know, for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him. And when he is killed, after three days he will rise." But they did not understand the saying, and were afraid to ask him. Mark 9:30–32 (ESV)

But they did not understand this saying, and it was concealed from them, so that they might not perceive it. And they were afraid to ask him about this saying. Luke 9:45 (ESV)

2. Jesus warned about the dangers of pride and the payoff of humility.

And they came to Capernaum. And when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you discussing on the way?" But they kept silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. Mark 9:33–34 (ESV)

A. Pride ruins relationships.

- Pride ruins marriages.
- Pride ruins churches.

B. Pride takes away honor.

And he sat down and called the twelve. And he said to them, "If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all." Mark 9:35 (ESV)

And Jesus called them to him and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, Mark 10:42–43 (ESV)

C. Pride separates us from God.

And he took a child and put him in the midst of them, and taking him in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me." Mark 9:36–37 (ESV)

D. Pride creates an attitude of exclusivity.

John said to him, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." But Jesus said, "Do not stop him, for no one who does a mighty work in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. For the one who is not against us is for us." Mark 9:38–40 (ESV)

- When we think God only works through us and our group, that reveals a narrow and prideful heart.

- We must remember there are only two sides. Fight Satan who is the enemy, not other Christians who are on the same team.

What are two ditches to avoid when churches work together?

1. Avoid the ditch of narrow-minded theological precision that breaks relationships with other believers and churches into little groups that do not work together.
2. Avoid the ditch of open-mindedness that doesn't understand the reasons for different denominations and churches.

What are the different tiers of Christian connection?

Tier 1 — Christian or non-Christian. Does the person or church possess the essentials of faith? While they are different than me, they will still be in heaven.

Tier 2 — Differences between denominations. Does this person or church differ from me on the way I believe the Bible talks about church life and Christian life? While a church or individual will be in heaven, it is valid to see the practice of the Christian faith differently.

Tier 3 - Differences in churches. Does a person differ from me on non-essential debatable matter? That is acceptable. There are areas in the Christian life where we can agree to disagree but still lock arms for Christ in the same church.