



Key References:

2 Chronicles 7:14 (NLT)

¹⁴ Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land.

Matthew 18:3 (NIV)

³ ... unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

James 4:13-14 (NIV)

¹³ Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." ¹⁴ Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.

Philippians 2:1-4 (NIV)

¹ Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ² then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. ³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

Ephesians 4:1-4 (NIV)

¹ As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. ² Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³ Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called;

Reflecting back on the past weekend's sermon, was there anything you heard for the first time, that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

1 – GATEWAY TO THE KINGDOM

Mike said that, "Humility ... is the gateway to the Kingdom, because how can you repent of sin if you've got pride in your heart?" He also suggested that, "True humility and character takes time and effort to cultivate." **If humility moves us to repentance, and if over time it works to refine us, what other character traits in our lives are shaped by it?**

2 – WE'VE LOST CONTROL OF OUR LIFE

Woody Allen once said, "*If you want to make God laugh, tell him your plans.*" And, "*If you want to hear him laugh even louder - tell him how much you know.*" **Can you relate to these quotes? Consider sharing about a time in your life when this was true. What does this quote tell us about our sin nature and about how easily pride can take root in our lives?**

The process of repentance involves admitting that we are not in control of our life and that God is. Read James 4:13-14. **What do these verses tell us about pride and the control that we have in our lives from God's perspective? What other verses come to mind that relate to this as well?**

3 – UNITY TAKES EFFORT

Read Philippians 2:1-4 and Ephesians 4:1-4. **What keys do these verses hold for us as we seek to mature the unity of Oceanside Church?**

Mike said, "Humility allows us to see the dignity and the worth of all people." **How does this relate to unity? What can we practically do, as God's people in the Nanaimo region, to work out this truth?**