



# Guarding Against Pride

Philippians 2:1-2:16

## Introduction

Since Hope Church launched in 2008, we have seen God do some amazing things that have caused our faith levels to rise. We have seen a number of people become Christians, people's lives being turned around by the power of God, people being healed – spirit, soul and body – and God's wonderful provision in a number of areas. There is a sense that we have been walking in God's favour and that God is allowing us to taste in part some of the greater things He longs to do in our midst and through us...if only we would humble ourselves, pray, seek His face and walk in obedience to His Word.

Last week we announced to the church that, because we are outgrowing our current building, we will be moving to a new, larger building. Everyone was understandably excited and the whole service was one of joy and celebration. At the Engine Room on Monday somebody received an impression that they believed was from God along the lines that, as a church, we need to guard against pride. This seemed like a timely warning. It is so easy to cross over from a place of wonder and gratitude to a place of



pride – accepting glory for ourselves that rightly belongs to God.

The passage in Philippians 2 gives us an attitude check-up and reminds us of the importance of humility. Every blessing originates with God and all the glory needs to return to God. And, as we see with Paul, there is a wonderful connection between humility and joy – serving others rather than expecting to be served; not striving after recognition, position and influence, but considering others better than ourselves. It is a Kingdom re-ordering than runs counter to the values of the world, but produces the sweetest fruit.

## Life Group questions...

- 1. "God cares less about our actions than our attitudes." Do you agree with this statement? Is it possible to do the right thing with the wrong motive?**
- 2. Define 'Humility'. Why do you think humility is important?**
- 3. Read vs3-4. Practically, how do we 'consider others better than ourselves'?**
- 4. Read v7. Compare this verse to John 13:12-17. In the church, what does it mean to be a servant of others?**
- 5. Paul says that our attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus...how can we cultivate a servant attitude?**
- 6. Read vs12-13. What is the relationship between our own efforts ('work out your salvation') and God's work in us? How can we learn to co-operate with God in His will being done in our lives?**
- 7. Why not take a moment to reflect. Ask God to put somebody on your heart who you can serve this week. Are there any attitudes that you need to ask God to help you change?**