

November 20, 2013

EXTREME FAITH

Who are we?

"Knowing who we are is knowing who God is and the community we belong to."

Humility

Keeping it
Real
B691

WHO WE ARE

We are to live with Humility...

Look to your left and to your right, who is in front of you and who is behind you? Where are you in the line, where are you in the social order? Look today and then look again tomorrow because you are in middle school and it can change day to day. When we think of where we are located in the social order one of the things we need to remember is this. As Christians we are to live out of Humility. In other words we are not to be snobs and look down on others. I know that many of us at times have been made to feel bad about who we are, and we have been bullied by others. But on the flip side we are not to think less of others. There is a balance that we can live by that allows us to think good thoughts about ourselves and to think good about others. It does not matter where you are in the social order, if you want to you can find someone that is lower than you and you can find ways to attack them and make yourself feel better about how you feel about you. But that is not Humility. That is doing the same thing that someone did to you and that's just not right. It causes the bullying cycle to continue and never end.

Look what we are taught in the Bible, when it comes to what we are to think of ourselves and what we are to think of others.

Philippians 2:3-11 **Do nothing from rivalry 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 made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.** Wow that is a big verse but here is what it is saying. We need to think of others and think good thing of other people. Get this Jesus was God but He did not think more of Himself, He thought more of us. So here is a step by step break down for you:
Step One: Know who you are and get your identity from God.

Step Two: Know that God thinks good of other people and He loves them so you should think of them as He thinks of them.
Step Three: Live to make a difference everyday and when you have humility you will be lifted up by God. Check out this verse Matthew 23:12 Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted. Get with God and make a difference in the lives of those around you!



Who We Are

Listen I know almost all of you, and I know that for the most part none of y'all are bullies, and that you don't go after people to hurt them. But do you go the other way and think of them before you think of yourself? Or do you hide behind a bully and let them do all the damage and live life out of their shadow? The cycle of bullying can be ended and can be turned around. You are a powerful source! You are a Child of God! You may have been bullied your whole life, you may think you don't have any power but you do! You are strong because God is strong! Look around the room the next you are in XGT and ask are we strong enough to make a change. Some of us in XGT might need to make a change first, but if we became a force for God, then yes you are strong enough to make a change!

Know who you are and who is No. 1

"I Am Second" by Newsboys

"I Am Second"

There's a me that I don't really like
A me that says I'm
In control til the day that I die
And I don't know why
I push I pull I fight I fall
I end up crawling back to
That place where I figure it out
That I, that I, that I

I'M SECOND TO ONE
REDEEMER, THE WAY, THE LIGHT
I'M SECOND TO ONE
THE SAVIOR
NO COMPROMISE
I'M LAYING EVERYTHING
AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS
MY PRIDE, MY LIFE, MY ALL
I AM SECOND TO ONE
AND HE IS SECOND TO NONE

There's a change when I swallow my pride
And I surrender
There's a peace when I open my eyes
Cuz I remember
To live's to die
To fall's to rise
To kneel's to find the Savior
Here I am and I've figured it out
Tonight tonight tonight...

He said "You come alive
When you lose your life"
so I lay it down
Yeah I surrender all



This song is featured on
God's Not Dead album
by
News Boys

Real Life Heroes

Bartholomew

Armenia

70 AD

"I Won't Bow Down"

"You are unsettling the worship of our gods. And not only that, you have perverted my own brother!" the king of Armenia shouted at Bartholomew. But Bartholomew did not back down. One of the original twelve disciples, he had boldly preached Jesus Christ for 37 years.

Starting in the heathen cities throughout what is now Turkey, he then traveled to India. Here, after he learned the language, he translated the gospel of Matthew and taught the Indians in their native tongue. Later he preached in twelve different cities in the country of Armenia (located between the present-day countries of Turkey and Iran). Many people turned from idolatry to worship Jesus, including the king of Armenia's brother and his family. Bartholomew boldly answered the king, saying, "I have preached the true worship of God throughout your country. I have not perverted your brother and his family, but rather have converted them to the truth." King Astyages threatened Bartholomew, "Unless you stop preaching Christ and make sacrifices to the god Ashtaroth, you will be put to death." "You can be sure of this, King Astyages, I will never sacrifice to your idol. I would rather seal my testimony with my blood than do the smallest act against my faith or conscience." Upon hearing this, the king ordered, "I want this man to suffer severe torture. First, beat him with rods. After that, suspend him upside down on a cross and skin him alive!" Following the king's command, Bartholomew was beaten, crucified, and flayed. Despite all this, he was still conscious and continued to exhort the people to believe in Jesus and worship the true God. Finally, to prevent him from saying anything else, the king's men took an ax and cut off his head. Bartholomew was united with Jesus, his Lord.

Throughout history, Jesus Freaks like Bartholomew have remained at their sacred tasks until their voices were silenced by death. They kept on in their witness, hoping that their last few words would help yet one more person believe.

Featured Story
from the book
Jesus Freaks do
Talk and the
voice of the
Martyrs



CHARACTER

EXTREME APPLICATION

You character can be seen in what you think of yourself. Do you think too much about yourself or do you think just enough, you see when we are humble and live out of humility, we are saying that we know who we are. We are saying that we know and believe what God says about us. It is only because we know who we are in God that we can be truly humble, and at peace with who we are. Show your character and show the world God alive in you!

Think About it (Tension in knowing who you are)

Where you sit, says a lot about what you think about yourself and what you think others think about you. I mean think about it, where we sit determines how we are viewed, how we are seen and how much we are heard. In the crowd of people that we call friends, we want to be heard and noticed. It is important to us all, but we need to be careful about where we choose to sit. We need to remember that other people are important too. How many of us have a friend who just talks all the time and never ever stops talking. I mean you have heard the story more than once and you have a story to tell, but they just keep talking. You might be this person. It's okay, but look at it this way. If you are always talking then you are saying that you deserve the best seat in the house. You are the most important person in the room. Now if you're not that person, you might want to move up in seats so that you can tell your story, so that people might hear what you have to say. Well you could YELL OUT HEY SHUT UP! Or you could wait with humility and tell your story when the other person stops telling their story. Oh yea they never stop talking. Okay so you might have to take action and speak up and let them know that you have something to say.

We all have something to say, we all need a voice, so remember that when you are telling your stories, stand up so others can be heard. This is humility in action, having a voice and being heard is so key to our value. This is inside bullying when we never ever let anyone else talk because we take the center seat and think that it is just for us and no one else. Believe it or not you are being a bully when you don't let others tell their stories.

So where do you sit and what seat do you want to take says a lot about you and your humble lifestyle. Be humble and allow others to speak, and when it is time for you to speak, speak up and tell a good story. Step up for others and let everybody be heard. Change seats if you have to.



DIE IN

Read: Philippians 2:3-11 Do nothing from rivalry 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 made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ...

1. What rules do your friends or family live by when it comes to saving seats?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> a. That there are no saved seats | <input type="checkbox"/> d. All seats are up for grabs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> b. That there are only assigned seats | <input type="checkbox"/> e. First come first served |
| <input type="checkbox"/> c. Seat checks are okay | |

2. Describe a situation when you tried to find a seat and there were none available.

How did you feel?

- ☐ a. Left out, alone
☐ b. Angry that no one saved you a seat.
☐ c. Normal cuz this thing happens all the time.
☐ d. Worthless like you don't matter

3. What does it feel like when someone tells you the seat is saved?

4. Describe a time when you had the best seat at an event.

Read Luke 14:7-11 7 When he noticed how the guests picked the places of honor at the table, he told them this parable: 8 "When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited. 9 If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, 'Give this man your seat.' Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place. 10 But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, 'Friend, move up to a better place.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all your fellow guests. 11 For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted

5. What did Jesus have to say about seating arrangements? How might these verses apply to your life?

6. When it comes to the way you approach sitting with your friends, which word best describes the way you try to find a place to sit—exalted or humble.

- ☐ a. I sit where I always sit.
☐ b. I try to sit in the middle where all the attention will be on me.
☐ c. I sit where I will not be noticed all that much.
☐ d. I sit where I can be around everyone and make everyone feel important.

UNDERSTANDING
WHO WE ARE

TAKE SOME TIME AND JOURNAL.

Look it over, read the story again, dig into the questions and write out your

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Living life with

Extreme faith
and
Extreme vision

EXTREME FAITH MAGAZINE

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