

BETHEL MATTERS

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Learning Humility from the Apostle Peter

Two of the greatest Christian thinkers God has given the Church were Augustine Aurelius and John Calvin. Both emphasized humility as the chief virtue of the Christian life. Calvin wrote:

I have always been exceedingly delighted with the words of Chrysostom, "*The foundation of our philosophy is humility;*" and still more with those of Augustine, "*As the orator, when asked, What is the first precept in eloquence? answered, Delivery: What is the second? Delivery: What the third? Delivery: so, if you ask me in regard to the precepts of the Christian Religion, I will answer, first, second, and third, Humility.*" By humility he means not when a man, with a consciousness of some virtue, refrains from pride, but when he truly feels that he has no refuge but in humility. (*Institutes*, II, ii, 11)

Humility is a hard thing to define. How do you know when you are acquiring it? It is hard to claim that you have it, because when you do, you have immediately lost it. The Apostle Peter helps us greatly here in 1 Peter 5:5-6. *Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."* *Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you.* Notice three keys to acquiring the virtue of humility.

Humility is primarily seen in how we treat others. Humility is "*toward one another.*" Philippians 2:3-4 may be the best definition of this aspect of humility found in Scripture: *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.*

What does it mean to *count others more significant than yourselves*? It carries the idea of treating others as worthy of preferential treatment ahead of oneself. So here, humility is recognizing the worth of others and treating them accordingly. We could think of many examples, couldn't we? Letting them speak first before us. Giving up the prime seat for a lower one. Passing up the closer parking spot for them to get it. Taking time to listen even when we know we must tell them they are wrong at some point. Being patient when wronged rather than reacting in haste and fury. All these things show true humility in our treatment of others.

Humility is seen in submitting to those God has placed over us. Notice how Peter connects submission to authority (in this case the authority of church elders, v. 5), with being humble. Proud people do not want to submit because they are wiser, smarter, or better in some way than the ones over them. *Why should we listen to others when we know best?* says the proud. But true humility recognizes God-ordained authority, and respects that authority, even submitting when we would rather not. A good question is, *Is there anyone God has placed over me whom I am resisting & giving a hard time* (parents, husband, employer, church leaders, police, etc.)?

Humility is revealed in service to believers God has placed around us. *Clothe yourselves*, v. 5, refers to a *servant putting on an apron*. We all know what servants put aprons on to do. *When given opportunities to serve my fellow-believers, what do I do with those opportunities?* The answer tells us if we are humble, doesn't it?

Your friend, trying to learn from Peter,
Pastor Brian (-:-).

From the Family Life Pastor:

This morning as I was eating breakfast and watching a little of the news, I was struck with a couple of articles that were on – and perhaps a connection with both.

First – there was an piece on about the shooting at a school where two young people were killed and the fifteen year old has been arrested. Our society would blame this on guns, perhaps it is time to examine what is happening in the minds and hearts of these young people, most of whom have never heard about the Lord and prayer, because it has been taken out of schools and sadly most homes. To some degree, the church has failed because of an unwillingness to be more Christ like in our dealings and interactions with others.

Secondly – there was an piece on about the NFL rejecting a commercial by veterans asking people to stand for the flag. It is interesting that the commissioner of the NFL says that we just need to understand the people who won't stand and why. I agree that it is important to get better understanding, however, as a veteran, I find it offensive and has caused me to feel less and less inclined to watch football on TV.

Then my thoughts on the way into church this morning with these things on my mind and heart. I thought of Philippians 2:4-11 which says:

“Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to death – even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name, 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!”

Do you see how amazing and powerful this is? First the challenge for us is that we should not look only to our own interests. So, if the shooter had not just worried about himself, but considered others with the attitude and humility of Christ, he would not have even thought about going out and shooting people – fellow students. There has been some speculation that he may have been bullied into this, and that even reinforces this more. If all of the students and teachers and administrators and parents had the humble attitude that Jesus had, all of the crazy violence in our world would go away. The thing that fuels the hatred and anger comes from being self-centered and

arrogant and thinking only of ourselves and our situation. That is not the message of our “world” and the world’s message is louder than the church’s message all too often.

And if people who refuse to kneel for the flag and what it represents will also not bow to the God of heaven. This again is an arrogant attitude that is permeated by “the world” and it says it is all about me and my issues, and no one matters except me and what I want. I only go around once and I’m going to grab all that I can for myself and not worry about anyone else.

This is such a strong contrast with the Biblical model - As we see from the Philippians verses – we need to look out for the interests of others, humble ourselves and be more Christ Like in our living and attitude.

Peter, in 1 Peter 4:1 says this: ***“Therefore, since Christ suffered in His body, arm yourselves also, with the same attitude, because he who has suffered in his body is done with sin”***. This again is a call to be more like Christ in our attitude. He humbled Himself, we need to humble ourselves.

What can help us with our attitude and thoughts and actions? Hebrews 4:12 says: ***“For the Word of God (Bible) is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.*** We need to spend more time in God’s Word, and not just reading it, but taking it and applying it to our lives and attitudes and views of others.

In Christ’s Love,
Pastor Hank

Have you visited our Bethel Website?

Check it Out at:

www.bethelmarquette.com

Audio Sermons are posted weekly
along with items of interest,
Bethel Matters, Calendar,
and Happenings.

Prayer Chain & Official Notices

bethelemail@gmail.com

If you have a prayer request or information that you want shared, please send that to the email address above. If you are not receiving email prayer requests or notices, please contact Ann or Ellen in the church office at 228-7589.

Items for the March 2018 Issue
of Bethel Matters
are due in the office
by, Monday, February 19th

Items for the Happenings
are due in the office
by Wednesday noon.

8. Michelle Baumgartner
10. Ryan Salo
12. John Janofski
14. Nick & Effie Smaby (A)
16. Ed Deyo, Hilda Johnson
18. Evelyn Giroux, Miles Jentoft
20. Dave Petrovich
21. Miranda Millin, Emily Nelson
24. Joe & Leanne Mackey (A)
25. Karen Helmila, Dan Freeborn, Pete & Julie Glover (A)
27. Montie Motta, Gwen White
31. Dave Michels, Samuel Saberniak (2 yrs)



If your birthday/anniversary should be listed above, please call Ann or Ellen in the church office.

Congratulations To:

Brianna Steede for taking 1st place in her 8th grade classroom spelling bee. Next competition is Feb. 6th.

Caden Steede for taking 1st place in his 5th grade classroom spelling bee. Next competition is Feb. 6th.

John Hamel & Jenny Frein on their recent engagement. The wedding will be in July.

Siena Lingle for scoring 19 of 25 points in a recent 7th grade girls basketball game. Woohoo

From the Mailbox:

*Bethel Brothers & Sisters,
Thanks for engaging in Jesus' mission with me through Cru. Your continued prayers, generous gifts, and encouragement have given many, many students the opportunity to encounter Christ and grow spiritually. Thanks for your special gift of \$100 for Christmas. Praying God blesses you in a special way and encourages you as you serve Him.*

*With heartfelt gratitude
Michelle Baumgartner
Campus Crusade*



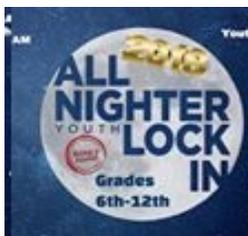
*Dear Bethel,
Thank you for blessing us with your gift for Christmas and the Teacher Training Conference.*

*To God Be the Glory,
Ceryl Doan, CEF*



Junior High Youth Group
6th - 8th Graders
Sundays 5:30 - 7:00 PM

Senior High Youth Group
9th - 12th Graders
Sundays 5:30 - 7:00 PM



Youth Lock In
(grades 6-12)
February 16, 6 PM --
February 17, 8 AM

Questions:

Chris Mauser, Director of Youth Ministries
1-330-550-0141

christopher.mauser@gmail.com

Happy February Birthday to:

2. Effie Smaby
3. Sandy Petrovich, Heather Pell
4. Bill Kosa
5. Stan & Judy Taylor (A)

Dear Bethelites,
Thank you very much for the wonderful gift card I was sent. It was very nice of you. I guarantee it will be used very wisely. I feel very blessed to be part of such a great bunch or Christian sisters and brothers.

Have a blessed 2018,
Bette Cannon

Dear Friends at Bethel,
Thank you so much for the Christmas check - it is very much appreciated. Gary will be wrapping up working as interim pastor at our church in Mosinee in early February; then he'll begin raising support for his new position at Converge Great Lakes. Be in prayer that the transition would go smoothly and quickly.
Thank you again for the gift and steadfast support over the years.

In Jesus,
Gary & Marie Harrison
Pinnacle Ministries

Dear Ones at Bethel,
Thank you for the beautiful peace lily you sent in memory of Ron's passing on to Glory. He is truly at peace now - out of pain - and whole mind and body! I am doing okay - although Christmas was hard, without my husband of 46 years. God has given me a wonderful support system in my church family, ladies Bible study, and my kids & grand kids next door. Appreciate your prayers. Thanks too for the Christmas gift!

In Jesus' Love,
Carol Horn, CEF

Dear Bethel,
My sincere appreciation for your thoughtfulness. The plant is beautiful.

Sandra Eatherton & Pam Roberts

Dear Bethel Family,
Thank you very much for the gift card at Christmas..

Love,
Nola Carello

Dear Friends at Bethel,
We are so thankful for our Bethel family. We are thankful for your friendship, your prayers, your listening ears and your faithful & generous financial gifts. Thank you! We thank you for the special gift you gave us for Christmas. Thank you for your Christmas wishes and for your thoughtfulness. We look forward to another year of fruitful ministry. Thank you for partnering with us. God bless you.

Love,
Dave & Susan Michels
Campus Crusade

Dear Bethel Family,
Thank you so much for the Christmas gift. WE were overwhelmed by your kindness to us. We are so grateful for our church family. We wish all of you a blessed new year.

Pastor Brian, Ellen,
Joy, and Jay

Dear Friends at Bethel,
Thank you for investing in the students at NMU. We appreciate you sending in your gifts to help the ministry run smoothly. Your gifts also help us scholarship students to retreats and conferences. It's a joy to see students step out in faith and to help them with a financial give is a great boost for the. Thank you. We appreciate all you do for us and the students. God Bless You.

Love,
Dave & Susan Michels
& the NMU Team

Thanks to the Bethel family for the phone calls, cards, visits and food after my surgery. It was so comforting to know people were praying for my unexpected surgery and recovery. Your support meant the world to us.

Cindy Pawley

Dear Bethel Family,
Thank you, again, for the year-end gift presented to us. My wife and I are touched by your generosity. You are overtly supportive and we thank you for showing your love both to us and our children. Have a blessed New Year as we embark upon 2018 together.

Love in Christ,
Chris & Laura Mauser

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Everyday Evangelism (E.E.)

Began Saturday, January 27th, 9:30 am
(not too late to join them)

LYNN MILLER RECOMMENDS EE. Here is his own testimony about it:

"I am grateful for the opportunity to have taken the Everyday Evangelism course this last semester. What Christian doesn't want to be able to share the Gospel message comfortably and confidently? I have learned several ways of sharing my faith and the Gospel message and have memorized verses that could be used in witnessing but somehow it didn't get me very far or boost my confidence. I would be apprehensive enough about it, that I would not give my testimony very often. I have admired those who seem to have a well-organized way of presenting

their faith but really haven't seen many who did it well. My best and closest example of someone who did has been Irmgard who has taken the EE course a number of years ago. As a result she has displayed the confidence that I wish I had and has been much more willing to share with others the hope that lies within her. Until this last semester, my schedule did not allow me to take the course and to be honest, I was somewhat apprehensive about it anyway. However, having listened to Irmgard and others with EE background share their experiences, my desire to "dive in" had been growing and so it worked out for me to join Nick Smaby as one of the students this past semester. It really is all that I've heard others say about it. It is a "complete package" of education and practical experience. First of all, the training materials are very understandable and provide excellent instructions. Cliff, Eleanor and Pastor Brian make a great team of teachers to personalize the written materials. Weekly readings, relevant lectures and in-class demonstrations, are combined with practical witnessing opportunities where we watch our EE trainers in action with those who have agreed to hear the Gospel message. We are given opportunities to contribute to the presentation as we feel ready. It reminded me of having taken a lifesaving course in the Boy Scouts as a teenager except this is really "spiritual lifesaving?" As a result of this, I feel much more prepared to share the Gospel message with any "divine appointment" God provides for me. If you find yourself hesitant to share your faith or do not feel you have a good method by which you could present the Gospel comfortably, please ask the Lord why you shouldn't give EE a try this year."

Primetimers ABF Activity
Wednesday, February 21st, 5:30 PM
Private Room at Big Boy



Valentine's Party

Questions: contact Sandy at 226-7232

Bible Studies

For Men

Tuesdays, 6:30 AM, Coachlight Restaurant
Questions: contact Pastor Hank 228-7589

College Age Dinner and Study

Sundays at 6 PM
at Songer's (2645 Grove St., MQT)
Alternate Location
at Maier's (1903 Mildred, MQT)
"Through the Bible in 24 Hours"
by Chuck Missler

There will be 24 sessions going through the Bible from Genesis to Revelation.

Questions; contact Dr. Songer at 906-360-8688

AWANA for grades K-6

Monday's at 5:30 PM

Worker's Meal at church

Monday's at 6:30 PM

Grades K-6

Monthly Schedule

January 5th - regular club night

January 12th - regular club night

January 19th - Theme Night
(Hat & Mustache)



January 26th - Grand Prix Race
Schedule

5:30 PM - racers start checking in

6:15 PM - design judging

6:30 PM - Race Begins

Cubbies (3&4 year olds for workers kids)

Questions: contact Commander Brian Steede at 475-9406 or bsteede10@gmail.com

If you have not watched the Grand Prix, it is a lot of fun. Come on out and cheer for your favorite car.

Bethel Children's Ministries
Annual Training

February 18th

10 AM - adult preschool children's church
volunteers

12:30 PM - K-3rd grade children's church
volunteers (Lunch provided)

March 4th

8:30 and 11:15 AM - nursery volunteers

March 11th

10 AM - youth helpers (all areas)

March 18th

11:15 AM - youth preschool teachers

Questions: contact Director of Children's Ministries,
Becky Nelson at 475-4944

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SAVE THE DATE

Bethel's Women's
Retreat

Faith & Friendship

UP Bible Camp

May 18th - 20th



For Your Information:

Hymn Sing Schedule for 2018:

April 29th at 6 PM

July 29th at 6 PM

September 30th at 6 PM

December 30th at 6 PM

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Family Movie Night

Friday, Feb. 2nd, 6 PM

"Cars 3"



* * * * *

Recipe Corner:

Chicken Mozzarella or Swiss

boneless chicken breast pieces

2 eggs beaten

1 sm pkg mushrooms

3/4 c. chicken broth

2 c. grated mozzarella or Swiss cheese

Italian Bread Crumbs

Cut chicken breast into about 3 pieces. Marinate in eggs for 1 hour. Roll in crumbs, brown in butter. Place in 9x13 pan. Top with mushrooms. Add cheese (I use Swiss). Pour broth over top. Bake at 350°, 15 minutes covered, 25 minutes uncovered. Enjoy.

- Judy Caldwell