

Humility

Discussion Guide for Titus 3:1-8

My favorite movie by far to be released in the past several years is Hacksaw Ridge. It tells the story of PFC Desmond Doss, who was the first conscientious objector to be awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Doss served his country as a medic in World War II while adhering to his pacifist convictions and never picking up a firearm. He proved himself in the Battle of Okinawa to be one of the most courageous men to ever step foot on a battlefield when he rescued an estimated 75 wounded soldiers.

You can watch his story on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JKdwsWdH3A4>.

Most of us would not necessarily agree with PFC Doss' personal convictions on pacifism, but you can see from his interview that he is one of the humblest people to ever be put in front of a camera.

Humility translates to courage because Doss was willing to place both his personal convictions and his love for his country and brother soldiers ahead of any concern he might have for himself. Humility also leads him to genuinely give the glory for his life and his story to God.

Humility does not mean that a person becomes a pushover or abandons his convictions. Quite the contrary. A genuinely humble person gains respect for his convictions even from people who do not agree with him.

It's unfortunate when Christians are known by characteristics that do not reflect humility. The celebrity culture of today's American church certainly has not helped pastors model this virtue. But, humility is actually more about the way we Christians interact with our lost friends and neighbors.

This is a theme of Titus 3:1-2.

“Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, 2 to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people.”

- Give an example of someone you know who exemplifies this verse.
- How does this behavior reflect Christian humility?

Titus 3:3 reminds us that the basis for our attitude toward all people is to remember what we were before Jesus rescued us.

“For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another.⁴ But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit”

The antidote to pride in ourselves and our accomplishments is to always remember the Gospel. If the Gospel is our story, then we truly realize our only boast is in the work of Jesus.

It is impossible to live a life full of the Gospel and to be puffed up about yourself. Everything good in our lives is designed to give glory to the work of God!

Look at what Titus 3:6-8 says about God’s design for our lives in Christ.

“whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. ⁸ The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people.”

Discussion Questions

- Compare what we were in Titus 3:3-5 to what we are in Titus 3:6-8.
- How is the purpose of our life different?
- How is our identity different?
- How do you recognize true humility versus false humility?
- How is it that a humble person is also a confident person?
- How does pride in your own works create complications in your life?
- How does humility simplify your relationships with other people?