



GENESIS CHURCH

NEW LIFE STARTS HERE



THE CULTURE OF GENESIS

MAKING THE MAIN THING THE MAIN THING

It's vital for the main thing to remain the main thing. The main thing for a community of Christ-followers is that they actually *are* who they *say* they are. At Genesis Church, ***we are followers of Jesus Christ***. But what does it mean to follow Jesus Christ? This is the question this document begins to help you answer. If you want to give God great, great glory, it's important that you *intentionally develop* as a Christ-follower, so that what God envisions for you becomes reality. So that God actually works through you – consistently – for His glory. It's vital that you learn how to follow God in ways that enable Him to flow through you – consistently – so that God can write history with your life.

IT'S GOOD TO DREAM, BUT BEST TO REALIZE

Many of us dream of being used by God with mighty power – we want to do things with our lives that shape the course of history. We want to give God great, great glory – the kind that draws people to Him, paralyzes demonic powers and stirs applause in Heaven. But the fulfillment of this dream can elude you if you don't make the realization your life's number one priority. God wants this dream to become *reality* in your life. Not some nebulous time in the future. *He wants this dream to become a growing reality, for you, beginning today.*

A great partnership is underway! God is building His Kingdom – and He has chosen *you* to be one of the people through whom His Kingdom is built! And, He has called you to do this with others. As a Genesis Church *Partner*, God has called you to build His Kingdom alongside other people whose number one goal is to follow Jesus Christ. You are about to make the main thing, following Jesus Christ, an even greater priority in your life. *We congratulate you for making such a wise, eternally significant decision!*

UNITY, MOMENTUM AND LEADERSHIP

You may not realize it, but the larger a church becomes, the less her people have in common. Think about this and let it sink in, because it will help you understand why we are being *intentional* about the culture that develops here at Genesis Church. In order for a large community of people to move forward, it is essential that they have some key things in common. Commonality is what creates *unity*, and unity creates *momentum*. In a word, it's all about *culture*. Culture is what characterizes the people. Being intentional about the kind of culture God values is essential in a growing community of people who claim to be followers of Jesus Christ.

Momentum is essential for God's people, because God has called us to build His Kingdom, and Kingdom work involves taking back enemy territory and expanding the reign of the King. In our case, we are expanding the Kingdom of Jesus Christ. Forward momentum, therefore, is not simply important. ***It is imperative.***

As Genesis Church grows, we will have people from various walks of life. This will not subside if we continue to grow. In fact, we will become increasingly diverse. We will have people from various ethnic, social, financial, political, and even theological backgrounds. Our pastoral staff is charged by God to shepherd His flock. Our elders are charged with being “overseers” of God’s flock. We are charged with creating the kind of culture worthy of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

In a growing group of diverse people, what then, must be our “common ground”? What is God’s bull’s-eye for which we all are aiming – both individually and collectively? These are vital question to ask – and we must answer them biblically.

These are the very questions that we are raising and answering in this publication. What we are doing with this document is helping all of our people, with all of the diversity represented, unite on the same page – a page that honors God and gives Him what He desires. A page that can be characterized by a simple phrase: *the culture of Christ*.

SIMPLE, IMPORTANT PROCESSES FOR ETERNAL IMPACT

We’re excited that you want to serve God and people here at Genesis Church! We take your desire to be involved in ministry very seriously, because your involvement is not only a personal matter – *it will also directly affect people, and the glory of God*. Our aim is that your impact will be *positive, contagious and to the greatest degree possible*. For this reason, we have developed the resource you are now reading to help you be the positive catalyst that we need to build *God’s Kingdom in God’s power, with God’s blessing*.

Along with becoming a Grace “Partner,” this resource is *one of the essential next steps* in our shepherding and screening process for you to become more involved as a potential leader, staff member or volunteer here at Genesis Church.

As a large church growing larger, and growing rapidly, it’s important that we have simple processes in place so that our people know how to take their next steps. It’s also important for our church leadership to help our people keep the main thing the main thing. The main thing is God-centered ministry by every individual, and to ensure we are walking together toward common goals with common methods.

With this in mind, it is important that you understand, embrace and promote the kind of culture here at Genesis Church that honors God. This is what is explained in this resource, so we are all on the same page, as much as possible, moving together in unity for the glory of God.

It’s important that you not merely agree with what is presented in this resource. It’s vital that you also be excited about it – because what you are about to read is the very heartbeat of God. It should be the heartbeat of His people. We want you to see yourself as a team player who will do all you can to help foster the kind of culture God finds indispensable, which is explained here, in this resource.

AN ESSENTIAL ENDEAVOR: UNDERSTANDING, EMBRACING AND PROMOTING THE CULTURE OF CHRIST

What is “culture”? Culture is “the quality in a person or society that arises from a concern for what is regarded as excellent in the arts, letters, manners, scholarly pursuits, etc.” Culture is what arises from “the behaviors and beliefs characteristic of a particular social, ethnic, or age group.”¹ We are in the process of nurturing a culture at Genesis Church where God can move consistently, with as little resistance from His people as possible. ***The people shape the culture and the culture shapes the people!*** At Genesis Church, we are in the continual process of developing a culture that glorifies God greatly. Simply put, we are aiming for a culture where the glory of God is manifested among us repeatedly, as a matter of our spiritual “DNA.” We will be the sum of our parts, and this is why it is important that everyone who endeavors to minister at Grace be a person who personally surrenders to Jesus Christ, who manifests the traits outlined below, so that when we come together, God has a real team of people to whom He can reveal Himself more and more, and through whom He can reveal His glory to others, and build His Kingdom with the greatest of ease with an army of people surrendered to Him.

THE GRACE VISION: GOD’S GLORY AND BLESSING UNLEASHED

*Every vibrant, successful team has **members who share a common vision**. The vision creates **unity**, and unity provides the necessary groundwork for our bull’s-eye – **the perpetual glory and blessing of God that overflows in fruitfulness**. Without God’s blessing, all our ministry efforts would be in vain, devoid of the fruit we would otherwise bear. Without God’s glory being the focus of our aim, all else is pointless.*

The glory and blessing of God is vital for *ministry momentum*. When God does something, it’s *good by design*, it *grows*, and it bears *fruit*. Without God’s blessing and momentum, a team would simply be a group of people gathering together – without much chance of achieving anything significant. What’s worse, a team operating without God’s blessing sacrifices the glory of God, growth and fruitfulness. Without God’s blessing, we would be fooling ourselves about serving God and people in “ministry.” *True ministry*, by definition, is *to operate with God’s blessing*. In a worst-case scenario, a team operating without God’s blessing could spread the exact opposite of God’s glory, bearing *unhealthy* fruit that would rob God of His glory, hinder godly relationships, and work against God’s purpose and glory. **“Ministry” without the glory and blessing of God is an oxymoron.**

The hindrance of God’s glory and blessing can be unintentional. This is why we must be deliberately proactive in pursuing and surrendering to God – fully – as individuals and teams, so that we don’t miss the LORD, and His best, along the way. We need you to be a person who deliberately seeks to be a catalyst for the kind of divine blessing, growth, health and fruit that God has in mind.

¹ Dictionary.com

ESSENTIAL TRAITS THAT INFLUENCE GRACE CULTURE

It's essential that everyone who serves in ministry here at Genesis Church is a "Partner." If you are between the ages of 13-18, we encourage you to become a Student Partner so that you may also serve in ministry here at Genesis Church as well. Our Partnership class will help you understand who we are, how we operate, and what we're aiming for. It's important that you become a Partner (or Student Partner) so that you are on the same page as others who are already on the ministry teams here at Genesis Church.

There are certain things we're unapologetically looking for in our servants. We cover these things in brief during our Partnership program – but it's important that we examine them further so that we don't miss our bull's-eye.

We want you to be fully aware of the essential traits we look for in team players who want to serve here at Genesis Church. With this in mind, here are the specific, essential traits we're looking for:

- **A humble, teachable servant-spirit.** Humility is agreeing with God about the truth – the truth about Himself, and the truth about ourselves. A humble person is approachable, teachable, trainable and hungry to become more like Jesus Christ.
- **Godly character that is above reproach.** Holiness really is important to God. It is important for everyone who has a growing walk with Him. It's not possible to love God without a sensitivity toward sin and toward the Holy Spirit. (There is a reason why He is called the "Holy Spirit.") "Above reproach" (1 Timothy 3:2, Titus 1: 7) is the umbrella phrase used to describe men who qualify as elders and deacons. But it is also the characteristic reputation for which every maturing believer should aim. Every one of us should be pursuing God so that we are transformed, with character that is "above reproach."
- **Faithfulness, loyalty and submission to God and church leaders.** If a person is not following God, they will not follow the leaders who are following God. Being on time, following through on assignments, and listening to leadership are a few of the key traits of a person who is following God.
- **Positive interpersonal communication and conflict resolution skills.** Our love for God is directly reflected by our love for people. It's absurd to think we love God if we lack love for people. It's essential that every person ministering at Grace has a clear and growing love for people and healthy interpersonal communication skills. Our people need to be able to resolve differences with humility and godliness in ways that demonstrate love for God and others.
- **A positive, "whatever it takes," solution-seeker attitude. We do not have room for a negative, critical spirit.** We need you to be part of God's solution to problems you may see by surrendering to Him in ways that make you a positive contributor to our teams, a catalyst for blessing and positive impact.
- **Not given to gossip, slander or undermining – either knowingly or unknowingly.** Gossip is talking to a person about another person in such a way that could unnecessarily call into question another's character or dignity, and to do so with another person or people who don't really need to hear it. The "need to tell, need to know" principle is important to apply whenever discussing the details of another person's life

with someone else. As a general guideline, ask yourself these key questions to help determine if what you say to someone could be gossip, so it can be avoided at all costs*:

Does the person/people to whom I might talk have a need to know the information about the person/people I may talk about?

Will sharing this information be beneficial to the person/people hearing it?

Would the person/people about whom I may talk approve of my sharing the information about them with another person/people?

***Note:** There are times when a person/people may need to discuss issues about another individual or people – but this *must be done with the godly intention of facilitating repentance and reconciliation, not merely for the sake of sharing information. Godly intent must be unequivocal in such instances.* For example, leaders often have to discuss the conduct of subordinates, and elders often have to discuss and process the conduct of church members. *Godly discretion and intention, for the purpose of honoring God, not merely talking, must be the guiding principle in all discussions.*

Slander is gossip taken to the next level. It's saying overtly bad or negative things about another person, the truth of which may not be verified. Legally speaking, slander is called "defamation of character," and is strictly forbidden in the Bible.

Slander and gossip are serious sins that create rumors. Nobody who claims to be a follower of Jesus Christ should be involved in spreading rumors. *We have better things to talk about with other people, such as God's great gift of salvation through Jesus Christ.*

LIVING A MAGNETIC LIFE: SEEK TO GLORIFY GOD AND ATTRACT HIS BLESSING

Because we do not automatically understand the ways of God, we must learn His ways so that we don't miss Him along the way. **Psalm 133** helps us understand the importance of unity:

Behold, how good and pleasant it is
when brothers dwell in **unity!**

It is like the precious oil on the head,
running down on the beard, on the beard of Aaron,
running down on the collar of his robes!

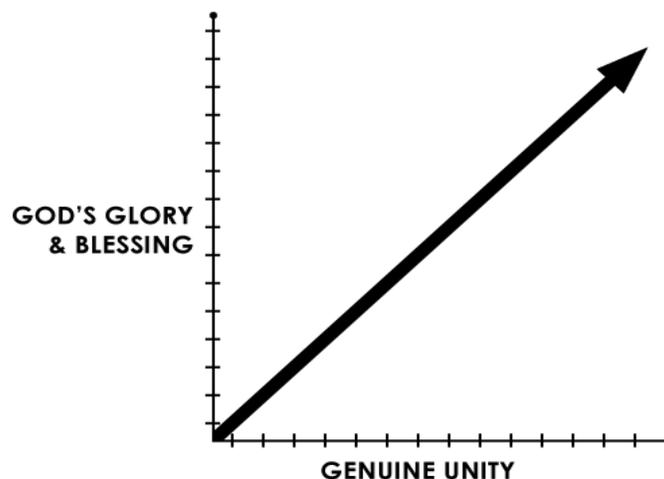
It is like the dew of Hermon,
which falls on the mountains of Zion!

For there the Lord has commanded **the blessing,**
life forevermore.

The Psalmist presents an important theology of unity in regard to attracting and maintaining God's glory. Through the Psalmist, God says two striking things:

1. **Biblical unity is presented as an essential, timeless prerequisite for divine blessing** – in the same way the sacred anointing oil was used for the Old Testament priesthood. Prior to serving, every priest had to be anointed with the sacred anointing oil. The timeless takeaway is that unity is an essential prerequisite, required for God's work. (See Exodus 29:7-9, 30:22-38). Without biblical unity, we will never do God's work in God's power. *We may think we are, but we aren't. Man can do a lot – but God always does more (and does it better) than we can. A little ministry with God's blessing far outperforms a lot of "ministry" without Him. We must not confuse the power of man with the presence and blessing of God.* No one in their right mind would even consider serving God as a priest without being anointed with the sacred anointing oil. Likewise, any attempt to minister to God and people without prioritizing biblical unity would be a hypocritical, undermining blow against our bull's-eye: *God's glory and blessing.* A man or woman would only be going through the motions of ministry if they were a willing or unwilling agent of disunity. Biblical unity is not merely important for ministry that matters to God. *It is imperative.*
2. **Biblical unity is presented as an essential, timeless agent of divine transformation.** *It transforms a life and ministry the same way that water completely transforms dry, infertile landscapes.* In Psalm 133, God compares Mt. Zion with Mt. Hermon. Mt. Zion is dusty, infertile and barren – because it does not have the irrigation of Mt. Hermon (made possible by the dew). With water, however, Mt. Zion would be transformed, becoming lush and productive. Through this Psalm, God teaches us that *just as life flourishes only when there is water, the blessing of God can only flourish when there is biblical unity.* Without unity, there may be activity – but until there is biblical unity, there is no true ministry. *We must be careful we do not confuse mere activity with true ministry that is characterized by the presence and blessing of God.*

Take a careful look at the graph below, which illustrates the relationship between genuine unity and the blessing of God. As God's people unite around Him, and do things the way He says we should do them, God's glory and blessing increases.



In **John 17**, we get a glimpse of Jesus' heart, and how vital unity is to success in God's work. Jesus prayed the following words, the overflow of His heart, and they teach us the relationship between unity and success in ministry:

1. In **John 17:11**, Jesus prays, "Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, **that they may be one, even as we are one.**"

This is not a mystical prayer that cannot be understood by mere mortals. In fact, it's *entirely practical*. Here, we realize that we should pursue the kind of unity with one another, and with the LORD, as Jesus had and has with the Father. Jesus prayed that the believers in His day would have **the same unity of vision, passion, paradigm, etc.**, as He shared with the Father. God the Father and His Son were not at odds with each other – even in the slightest – about who is getting the glory, how the glory is manifest, and the vision God has for countless things, as presented in the Bible. In **John 17:11**, Jesus is praying that the believers have the same kind of unity that He has with the Father. This is important to grasp – because unity is central to the way God works.

2. But Jesus not only prayed for believers in His day. He prayed for every believer thereafter, including us. In **John 17:20-21**, He prays, "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, **that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you**, that they also may be in us **so that the world may believe** that you have sent me."

What if we don't prioritize the same kind of unity experienced between the Father and Son? Can we expect the world to believe Jesus came from the Father? Certainly not with the same success. Unity has a direct, practical impact upon our success in leading other people to receive Christ as Savior and Lord. Jesus' prayer reveals a striking consequence of biblical unity: **effective evangelism**. If we want our evangelistic efforts to be blessed by God to the fullest, and for people to come to know Christ as Savior and Lord, we cannot neglect, or belittle, biblical unity.

When we don't prioritize unity the way Jesus and the Father do, we unintentionally shoot ourselves in the foot when it comes to leading other people to Christ. *People come to know Christ as Savior and Lord in proportion to God's people being unified* – in the same ways God the Father and the Son are unified.

Without biblical unity, we hinder the witness we'd otherwise have for God, and operate without the spiritually persuasive power that results when God's people are truly unified around Him.

3. In **John 17:23**, Jesus prays, "I in them and you in me, **that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.**"

Again, we see Jesus connecting biblical unity to *effective evangelism and people understanding the love of God*. People are – or are not – persuaded about the identity of Jesus Christ, depending on the presence or absence of biblical unity.

They are – or are not – persuaded that God loves them, based on the presence or absence of biblical unity. One of the most basic reasons why people do not believe God loves them is because God’s children are not unified with one another.

People often think that apologetics and the ability to communicate the Gospel is the primary way people are persuaded to understand who Jesus is. But Jesus’ words teach us that one of the most potent apologetics is unity between Christians.

Do you want to be a catalyst for God’s glory and blessing that leads to effective evangelism? Then you must prioritize unity the way Jesus does. If you want to do God’s work, you must do it the way God says it gets done. His work *requires* unity. Without it, we may be busy, and we may look like we’re doing “ministry,” but we would be attempting it with a horrendous handicap.

WHAT BABBLERS CAN TEACH THE BRIDE

In **Genesis 11**, we see the powerful effect of unity as it relates to success. God weighs in on the imperative role of unity in success by commenting on the building project of a group of godless, disobedient idolaters bent on making a name for themselves rather than the Name of God:

“Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do. And ***nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them.***”

Unity creates unstoppable momentum. The Bride of Christ, the Church, can learn a powerful lesson from the babblers of Babel. If a group of rebellious people, bent on self-glorification, are said to be capable of doing the impossible because of their unity, what would be possible for humble believers, filled with the Holy Spirit, bent on spreading the news and Kingdom of Jesus Christ everywhere? We would be an invincible force, used by God and overflowing with His divine blessing. The presence or absence of biblical unity plays a central role in our success or failure in evangelism and discipleship. Without it, we are incapable. But with it, we become invincible. Whenever unity is lacking, there is always a forfeiture of God’s glory and our ability to do His work.

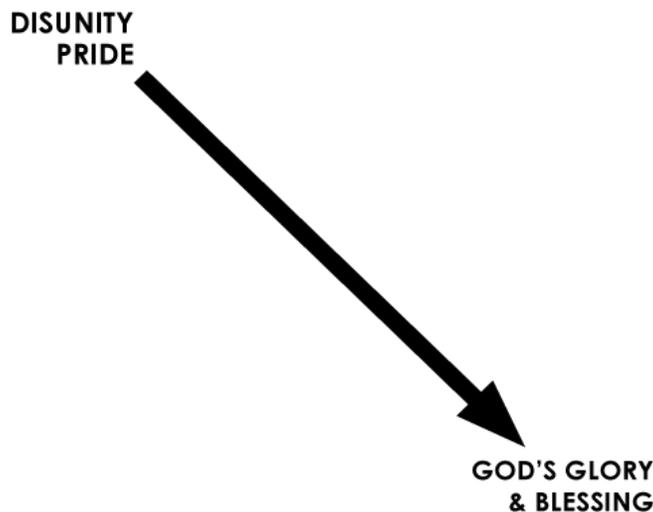
NOTHING CAN COMPENSATE FOR A LACK OF UNITY

There is no other resource a believer or group of believers could have that will compensate for what may be lacking in unity. This truth must sink into our hearts, make its way to our minds, and manifest itself in our lives. Our problem is not that we don’t have the resources we need to do God’s work. All too often, our problem is that we don’t have the unity we need to do God’s work with God’s power for God’s blessing.

While a man, woman, or ministry cannot always determine the resources at their disposal to do God's work, they can usually do much more in regard to developing and nurturing biblical unity – and biblical unity is the real missing resource most of us need more than anything else in our marriages, relationships and ministries. In most cases, the greatest need we have is not more money, bigger buildings or better or more equipment. Our greatest need is for true and growing biblical unity.

Paul understood the importance of unity when he commanded the Ephesians to be “eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Ephesians 4:3). The command is applicable to all believers everywhere. If we are not eager, making every effort to maintain unity, we are not obeying a very black and white, clear teaching from the Word of God.

The illustration below helps convey the effect of disunity and a lack of humility on the glory and blessing of God. There is always a heavy price to pay when God's people tolerate disunity and do not make humility the highly valued character trait that God Himself seeks. Disunity and a lack of humility need not be intentional to have an impact on God's blessing. A Christ-follower must be in a constant state of prioritizing biblical unity and personal humility. When we are humble, we are most like Jesus. When we are not, we begin to wander into Satan's territory. Pride was the devil's sin and Adam's sin. The whole world is paying a heavy price for the sin of pride, which always leads to disunity.



The absence of biblical unity need not be intentional to be catastrophic. God's truth about biblical unity must hit so hard that it causes us to stop living life and going through the motions of “ministry” without it. If we are going to be true catalysts for God's glory and blessing, power and persuasion, we *must* change the ways we think and operate. *Biblical unity is not merely important to life and real ministry. It is imperative.* The Bible overflows with example after example of unity's importance because of what is at stake. A compromise on biblical unity equates with a compromise of the glory, power and blessing of God.

Neither you nor I, nor any church or ministry, can afford to waste anyone's time going through the motions of ministry when *true ministry* that invites and experiences the outpouring of God's fullest blessing is possible. Neither you nor I, nor any church or ministry can afford to live one more day doing "ministry" that is not energized by the presence, power and blessing of God that can only be experienced when there is true, biblical unity.

THE SECRET INGREDIENT THAT MAKES YOU AN UNSTOPPABLE CHANGE-AGENT FOR GOD'S GLORY. WITHOUT THIS, YOU'RE GOING NOWHERE.

Many of us dream about being used by God with mighty power – we want to do things with our lives that shape the course of history. We want to give God great, great glory – the kind that draws people to God, paralyzes demonic powers and stirs applause in Heaven. This may be a burning hunger, placed within you by God Himself. But you may realize that the fulfillment of this dream is eluding you. *This is no accident.* If we are unaware of what God requires – or unwilling to learn, to integrate it into every aspect of our lives with a relentless passion – the dream will never become reality. If you want to be used by God with consistent power, if you want God to write history with the course of your life, if you want to give God great, great glory, *you must lay the foundation and set the stage so that the dream becomes reality. Until the foundation is laid and the stage set, the main act can never begin.*

Unity is the fruit of an underlying root. Although unity is essential to doing God's work with God's power, it is actually a *byproduct*. There is a root underneath the fruit of unity, which we must examine very closely – and embrace – so that God's blessing does not elude us.

In **James 4:6-10**, we read a few words that should stop us in our tracks and literally set us on a new course of how real ministry and worship are accomplished:

“. . . Therefore it says, '*God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.*' Submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and *he will draw near to you.* Cleanse our hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. *Humble yourselves* before the Lord and he will exalt you.”

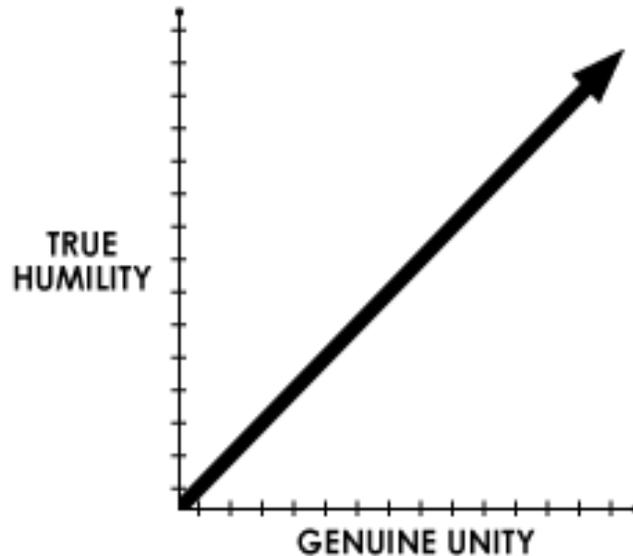
James is referencing **Proverbs 3:34**, which says “Toward the scorners he (God) is scornful, but to the humble he gives favor.” In a word, the secret ingredient to being used by God powerfully and consistently is *humility*.

In **1 Peter 5:5**, Peter also references **Proverbs 3:34**! Peter and James present a rare instance where two different writers of the New Testament, independent of each other, use the same Old Testament Scripture in the same manner.

Proverbs 3:34, 1 Peter 5:5 and James 4:6-10 present a theology of humility. They teach us that when a person (or group of people) behaves with pride, he/they are considered *scornful toward God* – and will in turn be *scorned by Him*. The ongoing blessing of God

is greatly hindered without the humility of man. Grace, God's undeserved favor, is not dispensed carelessly by God.

Take a good look at the illustration below, which helps us understand the biblical relationship between true humility and genuine unity. As true humility increases, so does genuine unity.



The question is not whether God is on our side, but whether or not we are on God's side. And God's side is humility. Both James and Peter were writing to a Christian audience, warning them of the importance of humility in order to attract the undeserved favor of God. How much of God's favor do you want in your life? Have you in any way become satisfied with how much God is pouring Himself out in and through you? Have you in any way limited God, even unintentionally, by neglecting the biblical importance of humility as a key component of God's grace in your life and ministry?

Humility unleashes the undeserved favor (grace) of God. It is a prerequisite for the grace of God. None of us deserves anything from God. But God, in His kindness, offers us favor only if we will humble ourselves so He can grant it.

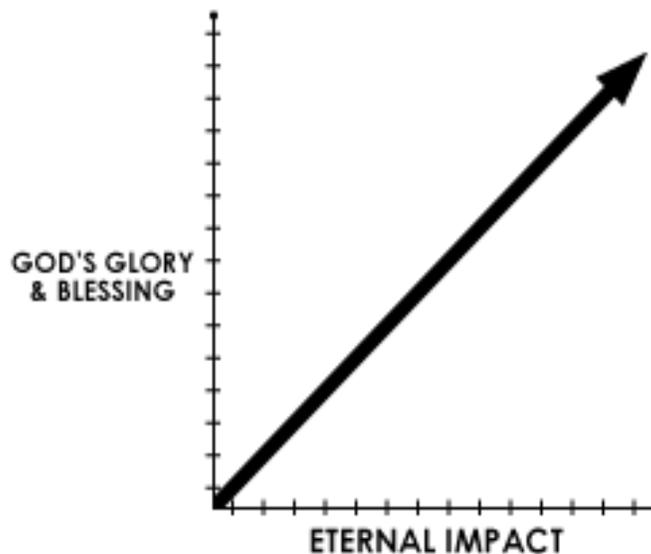
If you want to be used by God with power and consistency, humility must be among the highest pursuits of your life. Without it, you will be scorned – by God Himself. It's not possible to do God's work in God's power, and to experience God's blessing, without true humility. It is the secret to experiencing the undeserved favor of God.

You may be thinking, "But I am a believer. God's favor *already* rests on me." This is true in regard to salvation if you really know Christ as your Savior. While God's favor is not a salvation issue, it could be a matter of how *blessed* and how *fruitful* you are – or are not – in ministry. *If you are not characterized by humility, then biblically speaking, you are forfeiting the blessing of God you would otherwise have.* It's time to mature in your walk with Christ so that the things God desires in you are manifest. God wants to see humility in you, because where there is humility there is the outpouring of God's spirit of grace.

If the whole is the sum of the parts, we can't afford to settle for anything less here at Genesis Church. Every person involved in ministry needs to be on the same page, hungry for the outpouring of God in their lives, family, this body and beyond. Every person needs to do whatever it takes to be a catalyst, not a hindrance, to God's unbridled blessing. Humility, God's secret weapon for life and ministry that experiences His ongoing grace, is vital.

As a member of this body, being considered for a more active role in ministry, we need you to be someone who is on the same page with God and us as we seek to be humble people who minister to God out of the overflow, and experience His grace along the way. While none of us has arrived at a place of perfection, it's important that we are all traveling the same road, pursuing God's blessing and outpouring by being men, women, boys and girls who prioritize true humility that invites the outpouring of God's spirit.

When God's people are humble, and God's people unite, there are eternally significant ripple effects impossible to measure this side of eternity. This graphic demonstrates the relationship between humility, unity and eternal impact:



YOU, GOD'S VESSEL OF CHANGE

*Our vision at Genesis Church is the glory of God – His heightened presence among us. Every believer does have a say, through the choices they make, in how much God can use them. Consider Paul's words in **2 Timothy 2:20-21**:*

“Now in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for honorable use, some for dishonorable. Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work.”

While salvation is God's gift of grace, received by doing nothing other than giving one's life to Christ, the ability to consistently bring God great glory, and to be used mightily by God, is something every believer has a say in. You have more say in determining your eternal impact than you may have realized. It's important, for the glory of God, that you maximize yours.

Since any organization or ministry – any church – is the sum of the parts, your role in how we function and what we become is significant. We want you to pursue, with all you are, becoming a greater and greater vessel of positive influence here at Genesis Church.

SEE YOURSELF AS A "SPIRITUAL ENVIRONMENTALIST"

A spiritual environmentalist is someone who impacts the spiritual climate where they interact. What we want to do at Genesis Church is create environments where God can move – *with as little hindrance as possible*. We want a culture that prioritizes the glory of God as our common vision, the bull's-eye for which we are all aiming. After all, if we achieve everything else, but miss the glory of God, it seems that we would have missed the most important thing of all.

There are multiple examples in the Bible of God manifesting Himself in heightened ways because people humbled themselves before Him, rallied around Him, and sought His glory exclusively. ***There is something about putting all other goals aside, and taking up the one goal of God's glory, that seems to be irresistibly attractive to God.***

Moses, for instance, saw God move on *many* occasions. He led God's people out of Egypt. He saw God use him to perform *many* miraculous signs and wonders to persuade Pharaoh to release the Jewish people. He saw the pillar of cloud and the pillar of fire. He lifted his staff and saw the Red Sea part, so that God's people could walk, literally, through a wall of water on their left side and their right side. But there is *more*. Moses met with God as a man meets with a man – face-to-face – on *many* occasions. We would think that Moses grew accustomed to, or casual about, his relationship with God. But the exact *opposite* was true. *Moses was never satisfied with his track record of how well he knew God, or how much he had experienced Him. He wanted more.* The question is, have you become satisfied with how well you know Jesus Christ, and how much you have experienced Him? *What lessons can you learn from Moses, a man of God to whom God revealed Himself repeatedly, and whom God used powerfully?*

Even as an older man, Moses wanted *more* of God, *more* of His presence, *more* of His glory to be manifest before His very eyes. *He wanted to experience God, consistently and progressively, as the normal course of his life. Moses had an insatiable appetite for God.* This is what we want to foster, perpetually and continually, at Genesis Church. We want you to have an appetite for God that grows and cannot be quenched.

Moses' astounding hunger for God is especially conveyed in Exodus 33:18, when he made this striking request to God: "Now show me your glory." What an amazing request!

Here is the man who *already saw the glory of God on multiple occasions – in ways most of us would be satisfied to see once in a lifetime – and he wants more!* What should impress us even more is God’s response to Moses’ request: “I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you and I know you by name” (Exodus 33:17). If this is true for Moses, that God was pleased with him and knew him by name, and that God was happy to answer his request, it’s also true for everyone who has given their lives to Christ. If you know Christ as your Savior and Lord, you can have the assurance that when you ask God to reveal Himself even more to you – when you are really hungry for God to speak to you, to speak through you, to manifest His glory among you and through you – you have His attention. If you have a hunger for God and His glory, like Moses had, you can be assured that you have God’s attention, and that your request will not fall on deaf ears.

God is pleased with every believer not because of what we’ve done, but because of what Jesus did on our behalf. Through faith in Christ, God is literally pleased with the believer – and, He knows every believer by name.

*There is no higher request – and no more pleasing a request – that a believer can make to God, than to ask Him to manifest His glory to and through them. **Our bull’s-eye at Genesis Church is the unbridled glory of God.** We are hungry for God to reveal Himself to us in more and more ways, and to use us to do the same for others.*

It makes no difference what ministry you serve in, or in what capacity. The glory of God is our common vision, the bull’s-eye for which we are all aiming. The question now becomes, “How do we achieve this vision of God’s unhindered glory, and hit this bull’s-eye individually, and as a body, consistently, with growing momentum?” The answer largely rests in our **surrender** to Jesus Christ. Surrender is the irresistible trait of a man, woman, boy or girl whom God uses and reveals Himself to perpetually. When we get a group of people committed to this kind of perpetual surrender to Jesus Christ, nothing will be impossible for us to accomplish.

PLEASE NOTE: If you are reading this as part of the Partnership class, please disregard the Ministry Candidate Application.

PLEASE NOTE: If you are reading this for any other reason than Partnership, please complete and return the attached Ministry Candidate Application to the ministry office here at Genesis Church.



MINISTRY CANDIDATE APPLICATION

What's Next For You? After reading "Culture of Grace" completely, **please complete this "Ministry Candidate Application"**, tear it from the packet, and return it to the front office here at Genesis Church, for processing. Please keep the "Culture of Grace" for future reference.

Notification: You will be notified in writing about the status of your application for ministry by the ministry team leader or an associate.

Important: Due to the size of Genesis Church, and the variations in each ministry, there may also be additional requirements for the ministry in which you seek to serve (such as theological training, dress code, accountability, etc.). Your potential ministry leader will provide these details to you, as they may pertain.

Name:

Email Address:

Phone #:

Name of the ministry in which you want to serve:

Do you have a **Facebook** profile? _____ Yes _____ No

If yes, what is your Facebook address? _____

Do you have a **Twitter** account? _____ Yes _____ No

If yes, what is your Twitter name? _____

Continued ⇨

PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING:



Please make sure that you have completed the Ministry Candidate Application on the reverse side.

1. I am positive that Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior. I have definitely given my life to Christ for the forgiveness of my sins, and He is Master of my life.

____ Yes ____ No ____ Uncertain

I gave my life to Christ on (approximate date): _____

2. I _____ have _____ have not participated in Genesis's "Partnership", and became a Partner here at Genesis Church on (approximate date): _____

3. I have read this handout in its entirety and agree with the philosophy and ministry standards and expectations as presented. I promise to pursue a lifestyle that positively contributes to the culture of Genesis Church, as explained in this handout:

____ Yes ____ No ____ Uncertain

4. I am happily submitting to the leadership of Genesis Church, and will do my best to be a man or woman of God who walks in personal surrender to Jesus Christ with a growing hunger to know Him more and be used by Him for His glory as much as possible:

____ Yes ____ No ____ Uncertain

5. I answered all the above honestly:

____ Yes ____ No

My Signature:

Printed Name:

Today's Date:
