

What we're learning in Holy Homes

Holy Homes is a group of believers who meet on the 2nd & 4th Mondays of each month at 6:30 pm to sharpen one another by discussing topics relevant to having a holy home. These notes are a summary of what the Holy Homes group discussed in the last meeting. If you're interested in joining this group call Josh Norris at 884-4762.

Humility and Teachability

How are humility and teachability tied together? What does a lack of humility or teachability do to those involved? Prov 26:12, Prov 18:13, James 1:19-27 Humility and teachability are tied in that both are rooted in understanding that we are not the most important person in the world. Both allow, and even assume, that we have much to learn and that most anybody can be our teacher. A lack of humility & teachability sets us up as our own idols. We can begin to believe that we know it all and are, essentially, inerrant. This kind of pride damages relationships, evangelism opportunities, and also damages the proud, themselves, by hardening their heart and making spiritual growth nearly impossible.

What attitudes or beliefs can we have which prevent us from being teachable?

Generically speaking, sin is the great obstacle to teachability. But more specifically, things such as: 1) Thinking we already know what's being taught and thus not listening but instead critiquing the teacher. 2) Disagreeing with the teacher or believing that after hearing their presentation we can quickly assess if they are right or wrong. To think that after 45 minutes we can decide that they are wrong, though they likely spent many hours studying the subject, is the ultimate in pride. 3) We can be irritated by the teachers style. 4) We can also think of others who would benefit from the message and thus not apply it to ourselves. 5) We can be so fixed on a specific doctrine, that it becomes more important than anything else...including growing in holiness. 6) General rebellion or refusal to repent will often impede our teachability.

In order to be truly teachable, how should we react during and after the teaching? (James 1:22 is one piece)

Humility is the key. If you think you're humble, you're probably not. Our desire in all situations should be to glorify God and to grow in wisdom and maturity. We can, and should, learn from any situation in which we find ourselves. The desire to grow in knowledge so that we can out-argue others is not a noble desire. James 1:22 makes it clear we must be doers. To hear and not do is useless. During the teaching we should seek to find any tidbit we can which will help us grow in holiness. Even before the teaching we can prepare our hearts for the coming teaching. We should meditate on the principles, not necessarily the teachers content or method. We should also actively listen and seek ways to apply the teaching.

Are there circumstances in which we should not be teachable?

No. Even in the face of false teaching and wickedness, we can and should remain humble and teachable. We can even learn from the wicked. Also, things we once regarded as "incorrect" may change...We mature and grow over time and should assume our doctrinal stances are subject to the same growth and change. If we're honest with ourselves, many of us have come from past beliefs which we would now consider false or even heretical!

What does humility and teachability look like? Give some examples.

James 1:19-27 is the gold standard for teachability, while Philippians 2:3-8 is the same for humility. Our rebukes and corrections should be gentle and humble, as should our receiving of rebukes and corrections (even in the face of unjust accusation). True humility means esteeming and appreciating others even if you believe they are wrong. It should also be noted that humility does not mean "weak" or "pushover". We should still stand strong for truth. The key is that we need to be willing to examine others beliefs and see whether they could be true. The wise are constantly learning.

Should the teacher affect our teachability? To put it another way, should our teachability look different if we're being taught by a new preacher? Or a false teacher? Or a non-believer? If so, how?

Not really... we should be a bit more careful around those who have proven themselves untrustworthy, but we can still learn from them. Just because it's Benny Hinn, or any other false teacher, doesn't mean we have nothing to learn from them. As both Brad and Sharad have taught us recently, we must not be insulated from the world. We can and should learn from wise non-believers. This doesn't mean learning what they intend you to learn, but instead gleaning truth from all situations. No matter who is teaching, it's our duty to be discerning and to compare what they say to the scriptures. It is not our job to always tell people they are wrong or to argue them out of their stance. Quiet humility and grace is usually a more powerful witness than being the "truth police".