

# CHIEF MINISTRIES

February 2012

Greetings from the inner sanctum:

I hope each of you have been reading your word which will further empower you to make a difference with your life to those around you. Do you know there are character ethics that will make you a success? Things like, Integrity - what you're like when no one is looking; Humility - which we will discuss here; Fidelity - being faithful, committed; Temperance - not letting yourself get out of control in the midst of what you do; Courage - having the nerve to step out; Justice - being fair in all things; Patience - understanding God's timing; Industry - doing what it takes to get the job done; Simplicity - keep it simple stupid (K.I.S.S.); Modesty - no need to brag or puff yourself up and, of course, the Golden Rule - do unto others as you would have them do unto you. The character ethic teaches us that these are basic principles of effective living, and that people can only experience true success and enduring happiness as they learn to integrate these principles into their basic character.

Humility does not mean humiliation, nor does it mean being a doormat for others, having low self esteem, or curbing your strengths and achievements. Having strong opinions is no hindrance to humility either. In our culture, we fail a lot by confusing conviction or excellence with arrogance. I've seen leaders, pastors and chaplains in their own weakness of leadership do that very thing. Humility is the noble choice to forgo your status, deploy your resources or use your influence for the good of others before yourself. Simply put, you could say the humble person is marked by a willingness to hold power in service of others. Humility presupposes your dignity. True humility assumes the strength of the one possessing the virtue, which is why it should not be confused with low self-esteem. It would be impossible to be humble without a healthy sense of your own worth and abilities. Also, humility is willing. It is a choice - otherwise it is humiliation. And it is social. It's not banishing proud thoughts or refusing to talk about your achievements. But humility is about redirecting your powers, whether physical, intellectual, financial or structural *for the sake of others*. Philippians 2:3 says, "*Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves* <sup>v4</sup> *let each of you look not only to his own interest but also to the interests of others.*" Humility is more about how I treat others than how I think about myself.

Roger Federer can't seem to win or lose without praising his opponent (he's number one in grand slam titles). Jet Li, Hollywood kung fu star uses his fame and fortune to relieve Asia's poor through his ONE Foundation. Back in the 1930s, 3 young men got on a bus and tried to pick a fight with a lone man sitting at the back. They insulted him, he didn't respond. They turned up the heat of the insults. He said nothing. Eventually, he stood up he was bigger than they had estimated from his seated position - much bigger. He reached into his pocket, handed them his business card and walked off the bus and then on his way. As the bus drove on, the young men gathered around the car to read 3 words; Joe Louis - Boxer. They had just tried to pick a fight with a man who would be the heavyweight champion of the world for 12 years (37-49), the #1 boxer of all time. It was said Joe Louis could knock out a horse with one punch - I don't know how they tested that, but my point is this: here is a man of immense power and skill, capable of defending his honor with a single devastating blow. Yet, he chooses to forgo his status and hold his power for others - in this case, for some very fortunate young men. Let me be clear that I am not saying that humility automatically makes someone great. Plenty of humble people achieve little more than deep and enduring relationships (which is probably life's truest test of success). Nor am I saying you can't ascend "The Heights" without humility. *What I am saying is that humility enhances the ordinary and makes the great even greater!* A story like this increases our estimation of the man.

We are shaped by what we love. Cognitive-behavior therapy tells us that thoughts can be transformed by actions just as actions are shaped by our thoughts. Loving humility, admiring it, and longing for it are what kick starts the process of being transformed by it. In my music career, I never deliberately set out to work with some of the USA's greats, but when the door opened, I humbly became a servant to learn whatever I could from those around me. I was

shaped by what I admired and it allowed me to travel to over 63 countries of the world. I learned to reflect on the lives of the humble. Finding admirable examples and studying them will go a long way towards forming humility in us. The gospel of Luke will help you gain a deeper understanding of the turning point in history of humility. The life and teachings of the man from Nazareth will forever have an incalculable impact on those who believe. I challenge you to find biographies on men like Nelson Mandela, Mahatma Gandhi, Albert Schweitzer, Florence Nightingale, Rosa Parks and Mother Teresa. Most of your libraries will have these. More important than books are the people in our lives who exhibit humility. Reflect on them. Perhaps you have a godly pastor or volunteer or even a chaplain who hold their power for the good of others before themselves. I know that's asking a lot, considering the "system" and the people collecting paychecks, but you can pray them into existence. And finally act humbly. Develop the humility muscle by exercising it, even if you don't feel up to the task.

CS Lewis once said, "Do not imagine that if you meet a real humble man he will be what most people call "humble" nowadays: he will not be a sort of greasy, swarmy person, who is always telling you that, of course, he is nobody. Probably all you will think of him is that he seemed a cheerful, intelligent chap who took a real interest in what you said to him. If you do dislike him, it will be because you feel a little envious of anyone who seems to enjoy life so easily. He will not be thinking about humility: he will not be thinking about himself at all.

The first step of acquiring humility is to realize one is proud. If you think you are not conceded, you are very conceited indeed. So.... *"Humble yourself before the Lord and he will exalt you." (James 4:10 ESV) "He leads the humble in what is right and teaches the humble His way" (Psalms 25:9 ESV) "Towards the scorners He is scornful, but to the humble He gives favor." (Proverbs 3:34 ESV)..... "But this is the one to whom I will look, he who is humble and contrite in spirit." (Isaiah 66:2 ESV) "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." (James 4:6 ESV) "Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so at the proper time He may exalt you." (1 Peter 5:6 ESV)*

I've chosen to write a bit more cerebral this year. I want those of you who read these to begin to think deeper about how to have a Christ-centered life. Not to lord it over those around you, but that your fruit might be known and that you would be seen as leaders, living life in the fullest, even if it is behind bars. I started this ministry from the same position you find yourselves in right there in your cubicle, cell, or dayroom. And I write that with total humility, but also with influence and power, granted solely because I've learned (and am still learning) that it's not for me. It's to raise the greatness and strengthen the character of those around me. Which I absolutely believe you too can find yourself making a difference in the prisons and beyond. Nothing is impossible with God in it, nor nothing too difficult for Him to accomplish. Make the most of everything God blesses you with. He will hold us accountable.

Be blessed!

Humbly written to inspire,

**Chief**

*If you want to know more about CHIEF Ministries or would like to be a part of this, please go to [www.chiefministries.com](http://www.chiefministries.com) and [www.chiefshouse.org](http://www.chiefshouse.org)*

*Christ's*

*Heart*

*In*

*Every*

*Felon*