

I. **We are commanded to have a humility of mind.**

- A. We are commanded to think of ourselves in light of who **God** says we are and in light of the position **God** has given us with others.
- B. We are to have a right **judgment** about ourselves according to who **God** says we are.
- C. We are to have a right **judgment** about ourselves according to the roles and responsibilities **God** has given us with people.
- D. In essence, we are to submit to the divine order of **God** and function according to that order in light of **ourselves** and **people**.

II. **We are commanded to have a humility of mind that regards others as more important than ourselves, resulting in looking out for their interests as well as our own.**

- A. We are to regard others not necessarily as essentially **superior** but to provide others with **preferential** treatment.¹
- B. We are to regard others in such a manner that we are willing to put **their interests first** when those **interests** are God-honoring, not in violation of God's will, or do not bring the appearance of evil.
- C. We don't overlook our own **personal interests**, we just make sure that we don't ignore the **interests of others**.
- D. The **interests of others** are to be considered through the grid of **God's will** and to be addressed according to **God's will**. In essence, we are to view others and their interests the way that Jesus viewed others and their interests.

¹ Charles F. Pfeiffer and Everett Falconer Harrison, eds., *The Wycliffe Bible Commentary: New Testament* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1962), Philippians 2:3.

III. When operating out of humility and seeking the interests of others in the Church, consider these six pledges:

Pledge #1

“Now you are the body of Christ, and individual members of it” (1 Cor. 12:27). Because I am a member of the body of Christ, I must be a functioning member, whether I am an “eye,” an “ear,” or a “hand.” As a functioning member, I will give. I will serve. I will minister. I will evangelize. I will study. I will seek to be a blessing to others. I will remember that “if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it” (1 Cor. 12:26).²

Sign and Date _____

Pledge #2

I will seek to be a source of unity in my church. I know there are no perfect pastors, staff, or other church members. But neither am I. I will not be a source of gossip or dissension. One of the greatest contributions I can make is to do all I can in God’s power to help keep the church in unity for the sake of the gospel.³

Sign and Date _____

Pledge #3

I will not let my church be about my preferences and desires. That is self-serving. I am a member in this church to serve others and to serve Christ. My Savior went to a cross for me. I can deal with any inconveniences and matters that just aren’t my preference or style.⁴

Sign and Date _____

Pledge #4

I will pray for my pastor. I understand that the pastor’s work is never ending. His days are filled with numerous demands that bring emotional highs and lows. He must deal with critics. He must be a good husband and father. Because my pastor cannot do all things in his own power, I will pray for his strength and wisdom.⁵

Sign and Date _____

² Thom S. Rainer, *I Am a Church Member: Discovering the Attitude That Makes the Difference* (Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing Group, 2013), 18-19.

³ Rainer, *I Am a Church Member*, 30.

⁴ Rainer, *I Am a Church Member*, 41.

⁵ Rainer, *I Am a Church Member*, 52.

Pledge #5

I will lead my family to be good members of this church as well. We will pray together for our church. We will worship together in our church. We will serve together in our church. And we will ask Christ to help us fall deeper in love with this church because He gave His life for her.⁶

Sign and Date _____

Pledge #6

This membership is a gift. When I received the free gift of salvation through Jesus Christ, I became a part of the body of Christ. I soon thereafter identified with a local body and was baptized. And now I am humbled and honored to serve and to love others in our church. I pray that I will never take my membership for granted, but see it as a gift and an opportunity to serve others and to be a part of something so much greater than any one person or member.⁷

Sign and Date _____

⁶ Rainer, *I Am a Church Member*, 64.

⁷ Rainer, *I Am a Church Member*, 75-76.