

1 The Humility Hall of Fame

- Being Humble in a World that is Haughty

2 Pro Football

Hall of Fame

- Last week marked the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Pro Football Hall of Fame.
- Exactly 50 years ago, on September 7, 1963, the Pro Football Hall of Fame opened in Canton, Ohio.
- There were 17 charter members.

3 Sammy Baugh

- One of the original inductees was Sammy Baugh.
- Playing for the Washington Redskins, Baugh was known as "Slingin' Sammy" because he threw with such accuracy that the forward pass became an effective offensive weapon.
- Before that, football had been a smash-mouth ground game with very little passing.

4 Jim Thorpe

- Another inductee was Jim Thorpe.
- In his day he was the most famous athlete of his time.
- He could run the ball with speed and power, as well as pass, catch, punt and kick.
- After leading the Canton Bulldogs to three unofficial world championships, he became the first president of the National Football League.

5 Jim Thorpe

- By the way, he also played six seasons of major-league baseball and won two gold medals in the 1912 Olympics.
- King Gustav V of Sweden honored him during the closing ceremonies by saying, "You, sir, are the greatest athlete in the world."
- Thorpe replied, "Thanks, King."
- How radically the sporting world has changed since then, especially the NFL!

6 Excessive Celebration

- Today, success leads to excessive celebrations -- group high-fives, sack dances, push-ups, cartwheels, sit-ups, boat-rowing, snow angels and worm crawls.
- The arrogance of these athletes has become so bad that excessive celebrations now lead to an automatic 15-yard penalty.
- Makes you long for the days of Jim Thorpe and his simple, "Thanks, King."

7 Chad Johnson

(Ocho Cinco)

- The excessive celebration penalty came to be after several over-the-top celebrations occurred in the NFL.

- When NFL player Chad Ochocinco, formerly Chad Johnson, played for the Cincinnati Bengals, he performed CPR on a football after scoring a touchdown.
- He also got down on one knee to propose to a cheerleader, and swung a pylon like a baseball bat in celebration of a big play.
- When Steve Smith of the Carolina Panthers scored a touchdown, he did a snow angel in the end zone.
- These instances, among others, prompted officials to create an excessive celebration rule.

8 Luke 14:8–14

- “When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited. 9 If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, ‘Give this man your seat.’ Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place. 10 But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, ‘Friend, move up to a better place.’ Then you will be honored in the presence of all your fellow guests. 11 For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.” (Luke 14:8–11 NIV)

9 Self Promotion

- Jesus had no patience with prolonged, premeditated and excessive celebrations.
- When going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, he said, "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down in the place of honor" (v. 8).
- Don't assume that you are the greatest athlete in the world, which is what so many NFL end-zone celebrators seem to think.
- Jesus knows that someone more distinguished than you might show up, which would cause your host to come to you and say, "Give this person your place," forcing you to take a walk of shame and go to the lowest place (vv. 8–9).

10 Jesus' advice to the guest

- Instead, says Jesus,
 - "When you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you" (v. 10).
- This kind of behavior is not a sign of arrogance.
- Instead, it puts you in the Humility Hall of Fame, a concept which in reality doesn't make sense.
- In other words, how can there be a Hall of Fame for those who don't seek fame?

11 Jesus' Advice to the Host

- Then Jesus had some advice to the host.
 - When you give a luncheon or dinner, don't invite your friends and family because sometimes people give with the wrong motives.
 - They are out to impress and win friends and obligate themselves for repayment.
 - In other words, they are looking for a reward (v. 12).
 - Instead, Jesus tells us to invite those who can't repay us (v. 13).
 - Then God who sees everything will reward us at the resurrection of the righteous (v. 14).

12 The Arrogant Hall of fame

- According to one source, what our culture is not seeking a place on The Humility Hall of Fame.
 - Children want trophies for participating in sports, not just for winning tournaments.
 - College students want good grades, not because they have studied hard and learned a lot, but because they have showed up for class and paid for the course.
 - Basketball players go to prestigious universities not because they want a first-class education, but because they want to play a year and then jump to the NBA.
 - Reality television, full of people who become famous for being outrageous, not for any skills or talents or achievements.
 - The Real Husbands of Hollywood, Jersey Shore, The Bachelor, Keeping Up with the Kardashians they should be in Arrogance Hall of Fame.

13 Popularity of the NFL

- A Harris Poll of the American public, conducted last September, found that 59 percent of Americans follow pro football.
- That's the highest level of interest in the NFL that Harris has found since it started asking the question in 1992.
- Nothing seems to be slowing the growing popularity of the NFL:
 - Not an offseason lockout of players,
 - Not rising awareness of the health risks of concussions,
 - Not replacement refs,
 - Not 15-yard penalties for excessive celebrations.

14 As Followers of Christ

- As followers of Jesus Christ, we ought to have a problem with that.
- Not that we should boycott the NFL and refuse to cheer for our favorite team, but instead we should work a little harder to make the values of our faith all the more distinct .

- Being a follower of Jesus Christ is a countercultural game to play, one that is based on the belief that "all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted" (v. 11).
- Anything we do to serve others without expectation of a payback will be seen as a success in the eyes of Jesus, and will move us closer to the Humility Hall of Fame -- or, in the words of Scripture, to "the resurrection of the righteous" (v. 14).

15 About Boasting

- So then, don't boast about your accomplishments, instead give thanks to God for His grace and mercy.
 - Let him who boasts boast in the Lord. (2 Cor. 10:17 NIV)
 - Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; someone else, and not your own lips. (Proverbs 27:2 NIV)
 - As it is, you boast and brag. All such boasting is evil. (James 4:16 NIV)
 - I will boast of the things that show my weakness. (2 Cor. 11:30 NIV)

16 The Pride of Self-Importance

- Winston Churchill was a master of the one line witty put down. He described his political opponent Clem Attlee as "a modest man who has much to be modest about" and "a sheep in sheep's clothing."
- But are these really insulting? Is not "arrogance" the real insult of today's modern culture?
- Arrogance is the pride of self-importance. It is thinking of ourselves as more important or more able than we are.
 - It is often accompanied by showing contempt for others.
 - And a total disregard for following and abiding by the rules.

17 Who Said This?

- "I knew I had him in the first round. I want everyone to bear witness, I am the greatest! I'm the greatest thing that ever lived. I don't have a mark on my face, and I upset Sonny Liston, and I just turned twenty-two years old. I must be the greatest. I showed the world. I shook up the world, I'm the king of the world. You must listen to me. I am the greatest! I can't be beat!"
 - Mrs. Sonny Liston
 - Tim Tebow
 - Gene King
 - The Louisville Lip

18 The Louisville Lip

- Muhammad Ali, world famous boxer, is reported to have boarded a plane at the height of his career, and resisted the instructions of a stewardess.
- The stewardess told him to buckle up (repeatedly) and Ali said, "Superman don't need no seat belt."
- The stewardess, without missing a beat, replied, "Superman don't need no airplane, either. Buckle up."
- Ali swallowed his pride and buckled up.

19 Tim Tebow

- NFL quarterback Tim Tebow became one of the most instantly recognizable figures in professional sports with his distinctive attitude of prayer at the sidelines of football games: down on one knee, fist to his forehead.
- In 2011, a fan website invited readers to submit their own photos of people "tebowing" -- assuming the same attitude -- and an Internet craze was born.

20 Tebow cut

- However, just a few days ago Tim Tebow was cut from the New England Patriots.
- While Tim was a great athlete and good teammate he wasn't a very good quarterback.
- But instead of being bitter or resentful, Tim humbled himself and gave the Patriot organization nothing but compliments for giving him a chance to play.
- One can only wonder where Tim will now go, but if we really believe that God exalts the humble, we'll hear from Tim Tebow once again.

21 Tebow Tweets

22 Moral of the story

- Everyone who thinks they are a somebody are really a nobody.
- People who are a nobody can be a somebody, if they follow the teachings of Christ.
- Jesus was the original inductee to the Humility Hall of Fame and because he humbled himself, God exalted Him and gave Him the name above all names—Lord of lords and King of kings.
- God too, will exalt us and place us in the Humility Hall of Fame, if we follow in Jesus' foot steps and humble ourselves.
- So then let us not wear ourselves out trying to promote our own self-worth.
- As Jesus said, Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. (Matt 11:29 NIV)