



April 14, 2026

Dear Smith Chapel family,

Since yesterday, many people have seen and discussed an image shared on social media that appeared to place President Donald Trump in a role resembling Jesus. It has caused confusion, concern, and strong reactions for many. I know some of you may also have wrestled with how to understand and process it.

After prayer, I felt led to share a few pastoral thoughts with you.

First, Scripture does call us to become more like Jesus and to do the works He has commanded us to do. Jesus told His disciples, “Heal the sick... Freely you have received; freely give” (Matthew 10:8; cf. Luke 10:9). 1 John 2:6 says, “Whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.” Jesus also said, “Whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do” (John 14:12). And Luke 6:40 reminds us, “Everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher.”

So there is nothing wrong with desiring to reflect Christ in our lives. In fact, that is our calling as Christians. We are to live in such a way that people see something of Jesus in us.

But this recent controversy reminds us of something very important: the clearest mark of Jesus is not self-exaltation, but humility. Our Lord did not cling to status or glory. In love,

He humbled Himself, emptied Himself, and gave Himself for others (cf. Philippians 2:5–8; 2 Corinthians 8:9). Jesus showed us that true greatness is found not in lifting ourselves up, but in laying ourselves down.

In the meantime, the Bible is clear: “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble” (James 4:6). Proverbs 16:5 says, “Everyone who is arrogant in heart is an abomination to the Lord.” Psalm 138:6 says, “Though the Lord is high, he regards the lowly, but the haughty he knows from afar.” And Jesus Himself said, “Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted” (Matthew 23:12).

This is not only a warning for public leaders. It is a warning for all of us. Pride is not just a problem “out there.” It is a problem in every human heart. That is why Jesus calls us to deny ourselves daily and follow Him (Luke 9:23). Let’s remember: It is easy to see pride in someone else. It is much harder to recognize how subtly pride can live in us.

One way to examine our hearts is to pay close attention to what comes out of them. Jesus teaches that our words and actions reveal what is happening within us: “Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks” (Matthew 12:34; cf. Luke 6:45). Therefore, whenever pride or self-glory appears in our speech, attitudes, or actions, we should bring it to the cross in repentance before God.

That is my encouragement to all of us today: let us examine our own hearts. Let us repent wherever we have tried to take God’s place, seek our own glory, or think more highly of ourselves than we ought (Romans 12:3). None of us is the hero. Only Jesus Christ is. The purpose of our lives is not to make our own name shine, but His.

And let us also pray – for ourselves, for one another, for our President, and for all those in positions of leadership and spiritual influence – that we would humble ourselves before the Lord, turn from pride, and do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God (Micah 6:3). May God grant repentance, restoration, and revival to our nation.

“Awake, O sleeper,  
and arise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.”  
(Ephesians 5:14)

Holy Spirit, awaken our sleeping hearts. Deliver us from pride. Make us humble, holy, and more like Jesus. And let us rise with Christ, the true light, our risen Lord, and above all names.

In Christ,  
Pastor Ho