

1 Humility

- The Sign of True Greatness
- (Part 3)

2 Review

- As we have discussed before, Pride was not only the first sin, it is the worst sin as it is the foundation of all arrogance, selfish behavior, and rebellion, which brings on the wrath of God.
- Humility is the direct opposite of pride. It is found in the attitude of a servant and was evident in Christ who submitted to the will of the Father and did what pleased Him.
- Humility is our friend as it brings the blessing of God upon us.
- That is why Scripture says: “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” (James 4:6 NIV)

3 Review

- However, Pride is a hard sin to overcome and root out.
- Even Jesus’ disciples weren’t immune to its temptation and were probably one of its prime offenders.
- Over and over again, Jesus had to teach his disciples that greatness as the world defines it (seeking glory for one’s self) is opposite to how God’s kingdom defines it (laying down your life for the good of others).
- Not that ambition to be great in and of itself is wrong, but it is how we define greatness. If are ambitious is to become the world’s greatest servant we do well.
- As Jesus has said, Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. (Mark 10:43–44 NIV)

4 Simon Peter

- Peter is probably a great example how difficult it is to remember that greatness is measured by being a servant to all.
- Not only was Satan given permission to “sift” Peter like wheat for his arrogance and selfish competition with the other disciples, Jesus had to even continue to work with Peter after the resurrection.

5 Simon Peter

- Three times Jesus ask Peter, “Do you love me?”
- Three times Jesus had to tell Peter, “Feed my sheep.”
- The point being that Jesus wanted to get it through Peter’s mind was that what is pleasing to Him was Peter taking care of God’s people.
- However, Peter showed he still didn’t quite get it as he asked about John.
- Jesus told him, don’t worry about John, but “you follow me.”

6 Review

- The point being, greatness to God is in humility—becoming a servant to God’s people and not getting all out of sorts worrying about what God is doing in others.
- For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Mark 10:45 NIV)
- So then if we clothe ourselves in humility toward one another and not think more of ourselves than we should, we will be doing right and abound in God’s grace.

7 Pride is Still Around

- In a recent article in the Washington Post with the headline “Panel Examines Failings of Religious Leadership” it began with this statement:
 - “Pride, weak faith, resistance to women in the ministry, and a lack of personal accountability are among the failings of today’s religious leaders in all denominations . . . “
- How could so-called religious leaders get it so wrong about such basic Christian practice?
- Why is humility not expected?
- Why do some of us who do want to seriously follow Jesus not pursue humility with more passion?

8 What Humility is Not!

- According to Thomas Jones & Michael Fontenot, who authored the book, The Proudful Soul’s Guide to Humility, the answer is that for most of us, we have a real misunderstanding about what humility is all about.
- The following is what they say that humility is not.

9 What Humility is Not!

- Authentic Humility is not Passiveness.
 - Humility is not “meekness” if we define meekness as timidity—where one is easily intimidated and lacks courage and confidence.
 - As the Apostle Paul said to Timothy, God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. (2 Tim 1:7 NIV)
 - Humility is not being a Casper-Milquetoast type of person who sits on the sidelines letting everyone else influence and determine the direction of events.
 - Instead they will understand that they can act wisely on their own and through God’s grace can act in powerful and decisive ways.

10 What Humility is Not!

- Humility is not Cowardice in Pious Clothing
 - In reality humility and courage go together.
 - The man who humbles himself under God’s mighty hand will be ready to act with courage when others melt away.

- Humble men and women are not shrinking violets.
- Because they are in awe of God, they are no longer afraid of men.
- Nevertheless, when they share their convictions they do so with sincerity, consideration, and respect.

11 What Humility is Not!

- Humility does not mean becoming a Doormat.
- While a humble person will be willing to give up his rights for a greater good, humility does not mean you let others abuse you.
- There may be times you want to be silent and keep quite, but there may also be times you want to stand up to protect your's or other people's rights—yet doing so in righteousness and humility.

12 What Humility is Not!

- Humility is not blindly following
 - In Galatians 2, Paul stood up to Peter because Peter was in the wrong. Even though Peter was one of the “pillars” of the church, Peter was behaving in a compromising fashion.
 - Being a conflict avoider is not the same thing as being humble and blind obedience is not humility either.
 - True humility is being submissive and obedient to God's will always. This same devotion to men is conditional to the higher good.

13 Review

- “True humility is not passiveness, it is not cowardice, it does not become a doormat, it is not a pious act and it is not foolishness.
- True humility . . .
 - is full of wisdom;
 - comes from a heart of faith;
 - it is heroic and
 - bears good fruit.”

14 The Power of Humility

- According to R.T. Kendall, it would be presumptuous for us to imagine that we can completely and at all times overcome pride.
- But since we are debtors to the great and glorious gospel, we should always attempt to please God and honor him in everything and aim for spiritual excellence.
- He says, “what I can promise and guarantee is that by heeding Holy Scripture, we can improve and spare ourselves a lot of trouble down the road.”

15 Overcoming Pride

- Admit that you are Proud.
 - If you have the following attitudes and actions don't deny it, admit and take it before the Lord.
 - The Temptation to Boast – If you are tempted to boast, namedrop, and brag about your accomplishment, possessions, or faith you may want to bite your tongue. [Always ask yourself if this is going to make me feel better or others.]
 - The Temptation to Hold a Grudge – If you are tempted to hold a grudge or unforgiveness it may be a problem as well.
 - Someone may try to justify themselves and say, “If you only knew what they did , you'd be bitter too.”
 - It hurts our pride to forgive, and you may say they don't deserve it, however, whenever we withhold forgiveness or hold a grudge we grieve the Holy Spirit and give the devil a foothold in our lives.

16 

- The Temptation to Judge
 - Pointing fingers and blame is the easiest thing in the world to do. Satan has mastered it. Don't follow his ways.
 - Instead, refuse to say whatever comes to your mind.
 - Remember the fringe benefit of not judging: we won't be judged and we make life easier for everyone around us.
- The Temptation to Save Face
 - Don't shame or ridicule others in public.
 - Be willing to lose face to help others save face. If you do you'll have a friend for life.
 - We may appear weak, but it has tremendous benefit for those who look out for the good of others—the presence of God will flood their souls.

17  Overcoming Pride

- Don't Justify It.
 - Don't make excuses for your pride.
 - The attitude to think more of ourselves than we should, where we make independent decisions—ignoring God's will is not cute, neutral, or benign. It is rebellion and a type of witchcraft.
 - Adam blamed his actions on Eve and Eve blamed her actions on the serpent. Passing the buck is still going on today.
 - While one's circumstances can help us understand why someone did what they did, it is however never an appropriate excuse.

18  Overcoming Pride

- Resist Temptations that lead to Pride
 - Pride is at the core of all sin as we first must justify to ourselves that independent thinking and action is justifiable.
 - So we must ask ourselves what or who is tempting me to think I'm so special that I can ignore Scripture, reason, and church tradition to do what I want.
 - The sooner we recognize how pride is created in us, the better equipped we will be to resist.

19 Overcoming Pride

- Pride is when we think we're so special or others are so un-special that we don't have to respect or comply to the will others, such as:
 - Our parents,
 - Our spouse,
 - Our neighbors,
 - Our employers,
 - Our civic leaders,
 - Our church leaders, and ultimately,
 - God

20 Overcoming Pride

- So how do we get to that place where we think we're special?
- It is when we believe the following lies.
 - Our accomplishments give us special privileges and rights.
 - The failings of others give us special privileges and rights.
- So when we see something that we believe will bring us happiness we take it—regardless if it is lawful, right, or in God's will.

21 Looting in London

22 Consider Our Ways . . .

- This sermon tonight will conclude our topic on Pride and Humility.
- However, I'm a bit concerned as I'm not sure if everyone knows how important it is for us to take pride seriously and do everything in humility to God.
- If we choose to protect our egos, remain smug, and point the finger at others, we are deceiving ourselves and the health of our souls may be in jeopardy.
- But, if we search our hearts and allow the Holy Spirit to reveal those areas in our life that need exposing we will live and God will lift us up.

23 Consider Our Ways . . .

- So then let us . . .

- Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. (Eph 4:2 NIV)
- clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ. (Rom 13:14 NIV)
- as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. (Col 3:12 NIV)
- in humility consider others better than yourselves. (Phil 2:3 NIV)
- show true humility toward all men. (Titus 3:2 NIV)
- clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” (1 Pet 5:5 NIV)

24 Consider Our Ways . . .

- The purpose of this series is to encourage God’s people to consider their ways, so that all the trouble that we may be causing for ourselves and others, be stopped.
- So let us rid ourselves of all those prideful and haughty ideas about ourselves that are causing us to justify living a conceited and selfish lifestyle.
- Perhaps if we humble ourselves before the Lord in sincerity—with repentance, the “joy of the Lord” will return to us and God’s abundance grace as well.
- Therefore, let us ENCOURAGE each other to humble ourselves before the Lord so that he can lift us up. AMEN