



## Humility

What is humility? Humility is defined in multiple ways based on scriptures. One thing humility is not, and many have taken it to be is that it is not a “quiet spirit”. Being quiet does not translate to humility. Someone can be quiet and still be the proudest person there is.

The word humility comes from the Greek word “tapeinos” which simply means “low lying.”

- It is also defined as “lowliness of mind.” Philippians 2:3 “Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.”
1. The simplest definition of humility is trusting, believing, and obeying God and His Word. (Proverbs 28:25 “He that is of a proud heart stirreth up strife: but he that putteth his trust in the LORD shall be made fat.”)
  2. Humility is not thinking yourself higher than you are or lowly than you are. It is thinking of yourself according to God’s Word.
    - a) A true revelation of grace will cause us to be humble. A lack of humility is down to a lack of revelation of God’s grace.
      - i) Romans 3:27-28 “Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith. Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.”
  3. Additionally, true humility is not to make yourself the scam of the earth. Humility is not debasing yourself. In Numbers 12:1-3, Moses had an interracial marriage with an Ethiopian (Zipporah), and Miriam and Aaron criticized him. Yet, Moses, he writes that he was the meekest man on earth. “(Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.)”—Numbers 12:3
    - a) If Moses had rebelled against God in writing this about himself, you can rest assured he would not be considered humble or meek but proud.

4. True humility is saying thank you and receiving appreciation from others while giving God glory. False humility always says, "it is the Lord, it not me" and never accepts any thank you's or appreciations from others.
5. It is humility to recognize that God has touched your life and done great things in your life.
6. Humility is turning people over to God and let Him communicate with them. This includes your spouse.

How can we humble ourselves?

A. Philippians 2:3-9 "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

a) lowliness of mind

b) Esteem others better than themselves

- i) Looks not on his own things alone, but also on the things of others.
- ii) Which mind? Humility. A humble mind.

c) Make oneself of no reputation

- i) How? Coming down to people's level like Jesus becoming a man.

d) Obedience to God. Example: Jesus' death on the cross.

- i) Humility is saying yes to God. If we do not say yes to God, we aren't truly humble.

B. 1 Peter 5:5 "Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble."

e) Submission and Subjection

- i) One of the ways we can exercise humility is by being subject to one another, especially to authority and leadership over us.
  - True humility will have an aspect of submission to it.
- ii) The word “submission” is a military term that means to “arrange oneself under”
- iii) Thayer’s Dictionary defines it also as “to yield to one’s admonition or advice”
- iv) James 4:6-7 “But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

f) Relationship with God

- i) The degree and level of humility we walk in reflects our relationship with God.
  - Humble people are those who go visiting and spending time with God.
  - If we want to be humble people, we need to know the Lord. Through that relationship with Him, humility will flow as a byproduct.

g) Memory

- i) Isaiah 51:1 “Hearken to me, ye that follow after righteousness, ye that seek the LORD: look unto the rock whence ye are hewn, and to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged.”
  - Remember the pit God took you out of.
  - Keep your eyes on Jesus. Keep your eyes on the rock—Jesus.
- ii) One of the reasons we aren’t humble is that we forget where God has brought us from. We forget the pit God has dug us out of.

h) Interdependency

- i) If we want to be humble, we have to remember that we cannot do things by ourselves. We need help and we need to be dependent on other people as well.
  - ii) Self-sufficient people are not humble people. We need to recognize the role played by others in our wellbeing and success.
- i) Prayer
- i) One of the major ways we can humble ourselves is by praying.
    - Praying is a sign and language of dependence upon God.
  - ii) It is only proud people that pray not. By praying, we are saying we need help. We are saying we don't have it all together. We are saying I don't have all the answers.
- j) Thankfulness
- i) Unthankful people are not humble by any stretch. They think they are self-made, and no one has contributed to their success and wellbeing. Nothing can be further from the truth. Being thankful will help us exercise our humility muscles.

To God:

- i) Thanksgiving to God simply means, you acknowledge, recognize, and appreciate the hand of God, His power, provision, and his goodness in your life.
  - Psalm 100:4 "Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name."
  - 2 Corinthians 9:11 "Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God."
  - Philippians 4:6 "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."

- Psalm 69:30 “I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving.”

To people:

- i) We have also to develop an attitude of being thankful to people if we are to walk in absolute humility.

k) Casting our cares upon the Lord.

- i) 1 Peter 5:6-7 “Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.”

- Casting our cares upon the Lord is a clear sign of humility. If we choose to take our cares upon ourselves refusing to cast them upon the Lord, then we aren't humbling ourselves.
- One of the ways we humble ourselves is by casting our care upon Him, why Him? Because He cares for us. We can confidently cast our cares upon Him because He cares for us.

- ii) Let me show you a proud person; It's one who is bearing and carrying their care. You can't be humble with care and worries! That's pride. We must quit trusting and leaning on our understanding, but rather cast our cares upon the Lord.

l) Receiving

- i) Act 26:18 “To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.”

- ii) Some people have to work on learning to receive. It takes humility for someone to receive from others.

- A lack of humility is seen through a refusal to receive.
- Proud people won't receive a thing from others.
- Some struggle to receive from God because of this same issue.

- iii) We can exercise the humility muscle through our ability and willingness to receive. Salvation is a gift we receive. We can't earn it. This is true for healing, provision, deliverance, and prosperity.
- iv) People that will go to hell, will be purely proud people for they refused to receive the free gift of salvation.
- m) Asking for forgiveness
  - i) It takes humility for us to seek reconciliation and also ask for forgiveness.
  - ii) It is only the proud that believe they make no mistakes and therefore do not need anyone else's forgiveness.
  - iii) One of the reasons why some people do not commit their lives to the Lord and ask or receive forgiveness is down to a pride issue. They believe or think they need not anyone's forgiveness—including God.

#### C. Jesus, the best example of Humility.

- a) I am meek and lowly in heart.
  - i) Matthew 11:29 "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls."
- b) He lived his life dependent on God.
  - i) John 5:19 "Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise."

#### D. Rewards and benefits to Humility

Many times, when we humble ourselves, in the natural it looks like we are losing. Not true! The way up in the kingdom of God is the way down. We need to learn to humble ourselves if we are to be exalted.

- a) Riches, life, and honor

- i) Proverbs 22:4 By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, and honour, and life.
- ii) Proverbs 15:33 The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom; and before honour is humility.
- iii) Proverbs 18:12 Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, and before honour is humility.

- One of the reasons many of us are lacking in honor is because we have ignored the principle of humility.
- Humility comes before honor. Not the other way around. Another way of saying this is that honor only follows humility.
- No humility, no honor.
- If we can't humble ourselves before honor, we will destroy lives after honor. We will kill babies to advance our cause.

b) Grace, more grace.

1 Peter 5:5 "Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble."

James 4:6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

- i) Grace is a gift. God gives grace and it can't be earned. If we are low lying (humble), then we can easily be filled with God's grace because like water flows to fill the lowest points first. Grace will fill up the humble first.
- ii) There is more grace. We can appropriate that by humility.
- iii) Humility is something that cannot be hidden. Just as people can easily see our clothes, people should be able to see our humility at a distance.
  - Humility covers our nakedness the way our clothes do. A lack of humility is simply nudity.

- Notice that one way we can be humble ourselves is by being subject one to another.

c) Exaltation.

- i) Philippians 2:9-11 “Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”
- ii) James 4:10 “Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.”

E. Pride

We can't talk about humility without talking about pride.

The word “Proud” comes from a Greek word “huperephanos” which means “showing one's self above others, overtopping, conspicuous above others, pre-eminent; with an overweening estimate of one's means or merits, despising others or even treating them with contempt, haughty”

Pride is simply self-centeredness. Although pride involves arrogance and self-exaltation, it is not just arrogance, but it's also low self-esteem. It is timidity and shyness. Pride simply means putting “self” in the center. On the other hand, humility is removing ourselves from the center.

Pro 13:10 “Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom.”

- Pride is the ONLY reason for contention and strife. It is not one of the reasons. It is not the main reason for contention and strife. It is the only reason.

F. Opposites to Humility

- Anger
- Pride
- Fear of man
- “No Lord”
- Strife
- No trust
- Compromise
- Self-promotion.



G. An angry person is a proud person.

A close study of these scriptures will reveal that an angry person is a proud person. Therefore, anger is not a sign of humility. Additionally, you will find that a scorner is not a humble but rather proud person.

At the root of anger and scorn is nothing else but pride.

- a) Proverbs 12:16 “A fool's wrath is presently known: but a prudent man covereth shame.”
- b) Proverbs 14:17, 29 “He that is soon angry dealeth foolishly: and a man of wicked devices is hated. He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding: but he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly.
- c) Proverbs 19:11, 25 “The discretion of a man deferreth his anger; and it is his glory to pass over a transgression. Smite a scorner, and the simple will beware: and reprove one that hath understanding, and he will understand knowledge.
- d) Proverbs 26:17 “He that passeth by, and meddleth with strife belonging not to him, is like one that taketh a dog by the ears.”
- e) Proverbs 26:20-21 “Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth. As coals are to burning coals, and wood to fire; so is a contentious man to kindle strife.
  - i) Strife and contention come as a result of a proud heart.
- f) Proverbs 28:25 “He that is of a proud heart stirreth up strife: but he that putteth his trust in the LORD shall be made fat. Proverbs 29:8, 22, 23 “Scornful men bring a city into a snare: but wise men turn away wrath. An angry man stirreth up strife, and a furious man aboundeth in transgression. A man's pride shall bring him low: but honor shall uphold the humble in spirit. (Emphasis mine).
  - i) If you put these verses together, you will see that the words “angry man” are used interchangeably with a “proud heart.”
    - It is a proud heart that causes anger and strife.
    - An angry heart is not a humble heart.

- ii) Notice: “He that is of a proud heart stirreth up strife” AND “An angry man stirreth up strife”
- iii) It is a decision to get mad or angry. We can choose not to get angry under any circumstances.
  - **No one can make me mad if I don't want to be.**
  - We can choose to be angry at people or not. We don't just get angry. We can control it. We can choose how we want to react.
- g) 1 Peter 5:5 “Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

Proverbs 3:34 “Surely he scorneth the scorners: but he giveth grace unto the lowly.”

- i) If you put these two verses together, you will see that the Bible comments on the scorner as a proud person that will be resisted by God.