
HUMILITY

Overview:

Throughout history we see that great men and mighty nations have fallen because of an abundance of pride or an absence of humility. Humility is character. Humility is in direct contrast to pride. Developing humility can and will bring success and prosperity to your business, your family, your friendships, your Small Group and to your relationship with God. Retaining pride can bring discouragement and defeat.

Outline:

Read 1 Peter 3:5-6 (Key verse)

I. What humility is not...

- A. Bad self image
- B. "I'm nothing" attitude/low self esteem
 - 1. Example of Moses:
 - a) Num. 12:3 - most humble man on earth
 - b) Acts 7:22 - powerful in speech & action
- C. Meekness or soft-spokenness
- D. Self-pity or suffering.

II. What humility is...

- A. Charles H. Spurgeon: "*Humility is to make a right estimate of one's self*"
- B. Gentle & Patient (Eph 4:2; Col 3:12-14)
 - 1. Waiting lines...when hungry ;-)
 - 2. If someone is late to a meeting
 - 3. Irritated at wife & kids
- C. Selfless (Philippians 2:3-4)
 - 1. Taking that last piece of cake...w/out asking
 - 2. Exalted when others excel
 - 3. Excited when others get the promotion
 - 4. Excited when others getting pregnant
 - 5. No praise for what you have done-OK w/ it
- D. Obedient & Teachable (Philippians 2:5-8)
 - 1. Even to the point of death
 - 2. "God said it, I'll do it" attitude
 - 3. Keep an oath - even when it hurts
 - 4. Ex. Pastor's meetings
- E. Submissive (1 Peter 5:5-7)
 - 1. Willing to seek counsel & get advice
 - 2. Willing to support other people's ideas – over your own.
- F. Servant (John 13:2-17)
 - 1. Christ is our example
 - 2. Serving behind the scenes
 - 3. Not grabbing for all the glory
 - 4. Willing to do the "worst" job (ex. diapers, toilet)

III. Humility is no accident

- A. Humility does not just happen
 - 1. Born with pride
 - 2. Must be learned
- B. Without it we will be destroyed
 - 1. Prov. 16:18 "Pride goes before **destruction**, a haughty spirit before a **fall**."

IV. Why humble myself? Because...

- A. "God opposes the proud..." (1 Peter 5:5a)
 - 1. "To set oneself against someone or something."
 - 2. "To stand against in full battle array"
- B. How God opposes us:
 - 1. Proverbs 11:2 - "When pride comes, then **disgrace**..."
 - 2. Proverbs 16:18 - "Pride goes before **destruction**, a haughty spirit before a **fall**."
 - 3. Proverbs 29:23 - A man's pride brings him **low**..."
 - 4. Ex. *Flunking out*
- C. God can & will humble the proud
 - 1. **Nebuchadnezzar** - Daniel 4:37 "And those who walk in pride he is able to humble."
- D. "...**but** gives grace to the humble" (1 Pet 5:5b)
 - 1. Grace=God unmerited favor
 - 2. G.R.A.C.E. = God's Riches At Christ's Expense
- E. How God blesses us:
 - 1. Proverbs 11:2 - "...but with humility comes **wisdom**."
 - 2. Proverbs 15:33 - "The fear of the Lord teaches a man **wisdom**, and humility comes before **honor**."
 - 3. Proverbs 18:12 - "Before his downfall a man's heart is proud, but humility comes before **honor**."
 - 4. Proverbs 22:4 - "Humility and fear of the Lord bring **wealth, honor and life**."
 - 6. Ex. *Graduating top of class in IE*

V. The "Key"

- A. Humility=>Grace=>Exaltation
- B. TO DO: Humble yourselves (James 4:10)
 - 1. Promise - "For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted." - Matthew 23:12

VI. Conclusion

As disciples and leaders we desperately need the character quality of humility. Make the choice to humble yourself today, so that God doesn't have to do it for you.

Supporting Material:

Important Verses:

HUMILITY

1 Pet. 3:5-6 Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." 6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.

Eph 4:2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

Col 3:12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

Philip 2:8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

Matt 23:12 For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

Isa. 57:15 For this is what the high and lofty One says— he who lives forever, whose name is holy: "I live in a high and holy place, but also with him who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite.

Isa. 66:2 Has not my hand made all these things, and so they came into being?" declares the LORD. "This is the one I esteem: he who is humble and contrite in spirit, and trembles at my word.

Deut. 8:2 Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the desert these forty years, to humble you and to test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands.

Ps. 35:13 Yet when they were ill, I put on sackcloth and humbled myself with fasting. When my prayers returned to me unanswered,

Ps. 69:10 When I weep and fast, I must endure scorn.

Isa. 58:5-6 Is this the kind of fast I have chosen, only a day for a man to humble himself? Is it only for bowing one's head like a reed and for lying on sackcloth and ashes? Is that what you call a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD? 6 "Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?

Ps. 113:6. who stoops down to look on the heavens and the earth?

Num 12:3 Now Moses was a very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth.

PRIDE

Prov. 11:25 When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.

Prov. 16:5 The LORD detests all the proud of heart. Be sure of this: They will not go unpunished.

Prov. 16:18 Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall,

Prov. 8:13 To fear the LORD is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech.

Prov. 26:12 Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him.

Dan. 4:37 Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and exalt and glorify the King of heaven, because everything he does is right and all his ways are just. And those who walk in pride he is able to humble.

Gal. 6:3 If anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. James 4:5 Or do you think Scripture says without reason that the spirit he caused to live in us envies intensely? 6 But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." 7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double minded. 9 Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

Ps. 106:16 In the camp they grew envious of Moses and of Aaron, who was consecrated to the LORD. 17 The earth opened up and swallowed Dathan; it buried the company of Abiram. 18 Fire blazed among their followers; a flame consumed the wicked.

GRACE

2Cor. 9:8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

James 4:6, 10 But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the "proud but gives grace to the humble." 10 Humble yourselves before the Lord and he will lift you up.

1 Pet. 5:5-6 Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." 6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.

Quotes:

The reason we have to be humble in order to walk with God is not because God is so big and we are so little... but because God is so humble.
- Roy Hession

Humility is recognizing that God and others are responsible for the achievements in my life.
- Bill Gothard

Humility is strong-not bold; quiet-not speechless, sure-not arrogant.
- Estelle Smith

Humility is to make a right estimate of one's self.
- Charles Haddon Spurgeon

The meek man is not a human mouse afflicted with a sense of his own inferiority. Rather he may be in his moral life as bold as a lion and as strong as Samson; but he has stopped being fooled about himself. He has accepted God's estimate of his own life. He knows he is as weak and as helpless as God has declared him to be, but paradoxically, he knows at the same time that he is in the sight of God of more importance than angels. In himself, nothing; in God, everything. That is his motto.
- A.W. Tozer

A proud man is always looking down on things and people; and, of course, as long as you're looking down, you can't see something that's above you.
- C. S. Lewis

After crosses and losses, men grow humbler and wiser. - Benjamin Franklin
It was pride that changed angels into devils; it is humility that makes men as angels.- Saint Augustine of Hippo
Be humble or you'll stumble.
- Dwight L. Moody

The more humble a man is before God, the more he will be exalted; the more humble he is before man, the more he will get rode roughshod.
- Benjamin Franklin

Humility is nothing but the disappearance of self in the vision that God is all.
— Andrew Murray

References:

- 04.25.10 TRC Message: "Joy in Humility" by Steve McInroy
- 04.09.11 TRC Message: "Pride / Humility" Proverbs (part nine) by Josh Whitney
- Book: "Humility" by Andrew Murray, Baker Publishing, ISBN# 076422560X, Sept 2001