

Humility

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I. Review.

- A. Qualities of life concerning the character of Jesus Christ.
- B. The thing that God is concerned with has more to do with who I am than what I do.
- C. If we discipline ourselves in areas of character, He will lead us concerning what He wants us to do.
 - 1. If we take one step in Christ's direction—He will take ten steps in ours.

II. Philippians 2:12-13.

- A. Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.
 - 1. You cannot add to or take away from your salvation.
 - 2. Take instead the responsibility that is yours.
- B. God is the one who energizes us to do what we are supposed to do.
 - 1. The first step must come from you.
 - 2. God will not force us to take a step.
 - 3. God directs us a step at a time.

III. The second quality of Christ: humility. (Matthew 5)

A. Meaning Lowly.

B. Philippians 2.

- 1. Jesus took the ladder of success and turned it upside down.
 - a. He gave up/renounced the glory of His Father.
 - 1) One of the essential qualities in becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ.
 - b. He came to earth.
 - c. He became a man.
 - 1) He went through the struggles that we did.
 - d. He became a servant.

1) He washed the disciples' feet.

e. He was willing to identify Himself with criminals.

2. All of these steps are steps of demotion.

3. Jesus turned upside down our values of success.

4. As a result God highly exalted Him.

5. God does not humble us; He may humiliate us though.

a. We are to humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God.

6. God wants to show Himself strong and may exalt you in order to do so. (2 Chronicles 16:9)

C. More paradoxes.

1. In order to live, we are commanded to die to ourselves. (Luke 17:33)

2. In order to receive, we are commanded to give. (Luke 6:38, Proverbs 11:25)

3. In order to lead, you must serve. (Matthew 20).

4. The Christian life is in counter position to the desires of the flesh.

5. We know the needs of the human heart through ourselves, others, and what the Scriptures say.

D. Humility is a counter position to the wants to the human heart.

1. Peace comes from learning from Jesus—not from satisfying our desires.

IV. Broad references to humility in the Scriptures.

A. 1 Peter 5:5-6.

1. We are to clothe ourselves with humility.

2. Whenever we start talking about humility God puts someone in our path to test it.

B. Ephesians 5:21.

1. Subject yourselves to others and you will subject yourselves to God.

2. Humility puts teeth to the Christian life.

C. Micah 6:6-8.

1. The Lord requires...

- a. Justice.
- b. Kindness.
- c. And humility before God.

2. This is a promise for the humble.

V. A Scriptural picture of humility.

A. Basically it is the opposite as pride.

1. 2 facets of demonstration.

a. Conceit.

1) To think more highly of oneself than one ought to think.

2) There is a comparative factor here.

b. Self-contempt.

1) A lowly concept of oneself.

2) Self-depreciation.

3) There is a difference between being lowly in spirit and lowly towards oneself.

2. Both do violence to God's plan in us.

3. There is a continual comparison that goes on. (2 Corinthians 10:12)

a. Comparing our capacities with the capacities of others—this is self defeating.

b. Proverbs 13:10—the pride of comparison of one kind.

B. What does humility incorporate? (Romans 12:3)

1. To have an honest estimate of oneself.

2. Who am I?

a. A member of the body of Christ. (1 Corinthians 12)

1) Every member is very important to God.

2) People ought to do what they are supposed to do within the body—whatever God intended.

3) Everybody ought to feel needed.

4) We need to be content with who we are. (1 Timothy 6:6)

b. A believer that is still in the process. (Romans 8:29, Philippians 1:6)

1) Personal example of a un-hatched egg: “Careful. I’m happening.”

2) Real humility is finding contentment and having a sane estimate of oneself.

Application questions:

1. Why is humility so radical in relationship to the flesh? How does Scripture illustrate this radical departure?

2. What does pride reveal about humility? In what ways are you proud? Where is pride residing most in your life?

3. According to the speaker, humility is having a proper estimation of oneself. What will it take for you to get a “reality check?” What can you do to address the pride in your own life?
