

The Glory of Humble Submission

1 Peter 5:5-6

PART TWO

Introduction

“He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to *walk humbly with your God?*” (Micah 6:8).

Whereas humility is the root of every virtue, pride is the root of every sin.

We are keen-eyed and quick to see the faults and failings of others, but slow to view our own.

“When pride comes, then comes dishonor, but with the humble is wisdom” (Proverbs 11:2).

“Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 18:4).

“Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted” (Matthew 23:12).

Striving to live as the lowest servant of all actually achieves the highest fulfillment of man.

“Nothing sets a person so much out of the devil’s reach as humility.” Jonathan Edwards

The Origin and Nature of Humility

The origin and father of all pride: *Lucifer*

The origin and example of perfect humility: *Jesus*

“Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross” (Philippians 2:5-8).

“But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Mark 10:43-45).

False Humility

As with other Christian virtues, humility is prone to be counterfeited.

Humility is not self-degradation. We are unworthy, but not worthless.

The Bible encourages you to make an accurate assessment of yourself and live accordingly.

“For through the grace given to me I say to every man among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith” (Romans 12:3).

“True humility is not an abject, groveling, self-despising spirit; it is but a right estimate of ourselves as God sees us” (Tryon Edwards).

“Clothe yourselves...with humility”

The garment of true humility comes from within from Him who resides in the heart – Jesus Christ.

“This may be very refined and subtle, but it is the most dangerous kind of pride” (Leighton).

“clothe yourselves” [Gk *engkomboomai*] occurs nowhere else in the NT.

The word refers particularly to a long white apron, or outer garment, that was commonly worn by slaves.

Jesus “rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him” (John 13:4-6).

“with humility” Gk word means ‘lowliness of mind.’

“If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you” (John 13:14-16).

For the Christian, humility is worn both as a covering for sin and a veil for virtue.

It is not for ornamentation. It is the garment of the *servant-hearted*.

“Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair, the wearing of gold, or the putting on of clothing— but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious. For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their husbands” (1 Peter 3:3-6).

Peter wants the protection of the Lord Himself for His persecuted saints suffering abuse.

Humility and brokenness bring the presence of God very near.

“For thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: ‘I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite’” (Isaiah 57:15).

Humble Submission in Practice:

1. Submit to being content with having less, while others are prospering and enjoying more.
2. Submit to inconvenience in your life in order to help make others' lives more comfortable.
3. Submit to suffering unjustly that others might see Jesus in your struggle.
4. Submit to God's command to make confession to those you've failed, hurt, or harmed.
5. Submit to the demands of a mean-spirited boss so Christ is made visible to the spiritually blind.
6. Submit to being overlooked or passed over, yet rejoice with the fellow who was promoted.
7. Submit to failure without resentment or self-pity while rejoicing with others who succeed.
8. Submit to being misunderstood and resist the temptation to constantly clarify.
9. Submit to being falsely accused and resist the temptation to insist on being vindicated.
10. Submit to unfulfilled hopes, lost dreams, and unmet expectations with thankful hearts.
11. Submit to the rejection of your advice without resentment.
12. Submit to any dismissal of your opinion while valuing the opinion of others.
13. Submit to any interruption or cancellation of traditions or lifestyle habits you enjoy.
14. Submit to remaining unrecognized for your hard work, gifts, insights, or accomplishments.
15. Submit to criticism and resist the temptation to strike back or harbor resentment in your heart.
16. Submit to the revealed will of God especially when the desire to resist and rebel is strong.
17. Submit to the providential outworking of God's decreative will especially when you disapprove.

"Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you" (v6)

"But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word" (Isaiah 66:2).

Mary typifies the Christian example of humble submission while *under the mighty hand of God*.

"And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.... He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate'" (Luke 1:46-48; 51-52).

"highly favored one" (Luke 1:28). Literally, "full of grace."

How does one become full of grace? By emptying the self and killing pride.

"When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears and delivers them out of all their troubles. The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all" (Psalm 34:17-19)

Remember, it is the meek who inherit the earth!