

1 **The Mighty Power of Humility and Submission**

1 PETER 5:5-6

2 **Context**

▶ Peter has just finished giving specific exhortation and instruction to the elders of the church (1 Peter 5:1-4)

▶ He reinforces the fact that Jesus – the Chief Shepherd – shall appear and reward faithful leaders with a crown of glory

▶ Now Peter turns his attention from the shepherds to the sheep

3 **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.

4 **Submit to authority**5 **Why does he single out the younger members?**6 **To whom are we to submit?**7 **Government authorities**

▶ *“Subject yourselves to every human authority for the sake of the Lord, whether to a king as having supreme authority,”* (1 Peter 2:13, LEB)

8 **Employers**

▶ *“Domestic slaves, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and gentle, but also to those who are unjust.”* (1 Peter 2:18, LEB)

9 **Family authority (husband / wife)**

▶ *“In the same way, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some are disobedient to the word, they may be won over without a word by the conduct of their wives,”* (1 Peter 3:1, LEB)

▶ *“For in the same way formerly the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves by being subject to their own husbands,”* (1 Peter 3:5, LEB)

10 **Authority must be balanced by love**11 **Without love, the family gets the “death wobble”**12 **Family authority (husband / wife)**

▶ Balancing principle: *“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for her; in order that he might sanctify her by cleansing her with the washing of water by the word; in order that he might present to himself the church glorious, not having a spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she may be holy and blameless. Thus also husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies. The one who loves his own wife loves himself.”* (Ephesians 5:25–28, LEB)

13 **Family authority (husband / wife)**14 **Make love deposits**15 **Family authority (husband / wife)**

▶ We are to be subject to one another -- *“being subject to one another out of reverence for Christ”* (Ephesians 5:21, LEB)

▶ Honor areas of jurisdiction

- ▶ Wife should have delegated authority to make family run smoothly
- ▶ I don't tell my wife what to cook or in what cabinets to store pots, pans, and dishes

16 **The Lamp and the Light**

"My son, keep thy father's commandment, And forsake not the law of thy mother:" (Proverbs 6:20, KJV 1900)

17 **The Lamp and the Light**

- ▶ Father's commandment = Lamp
 - ▶ General guidelines, goals, and life principles
 - ▶ Example: Our children will get a good Christian education
- ▶ Mother's law = Light
 - ▶ Routines, schedules, and specific instructions for carrying out the father's goals
 - ▶ Example: *We will get up at 7 a.m. to eat breakfast, dress, and make beds. Then we'll start on school.*

18 **Family authority (children to parents)**

- ▶ *"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother" (which is the first commandment with a promise), "in order that it may be well with you, and you may live a long time on the earth."*
- ▶ Balancing principle: *And fathers, do not make your children angry, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."* (Ephesians 6:1-4, LEB)

19 **Two ways to have angry children**20 **Demonstrate anger toward them**

"Make no friendship with an angry man; And with a furious man thou shalt not go: Lest thou learn his ways, And get a snare to thy soul." (Proverbs 22:24-25, KJV)

"He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding: But he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly." (Proverbs 14:29, KJV 1900)

21 **Fail to listen to their hearts**

- ▶ *"So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, And apply thine heart to understanding;"* (Proverbs 2:2, KJV 1900)
- ▶

22 **Pastoral authority**23 **The most attractive thing you can wear is the character of humility**24 **Dress in humility**

- ▶ Peter exhorted both young and old alike to clothe (*enkombōsasthe*, "clothe or tie on oneself"; an *enkombōma* was the apron of a slave) yourselves with humility.
- ▶ True humility is attractive dress (cf. 3:8).
 - ▶ Peter may have alluded to Christ's girding Himself with a towel and teaching the disciples that humility is the prerequisite for service and service is the practice of humility (John 13:4-15).

25 **Remember this!**

- ▶ Humility is the prerequisite for service and service is the practice of humility

26 **The example of Jesus**

- ▶ *"Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God; He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself. After that he poureth water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded."* (John 13:3–5, KJV 1900)

27 **The slave's apron**

- ▶ Jesus' apron got dirtier as the disciples' feet became cleaner

28 **Avoid God's opposition**

- ▶ Peter quoted Proverbs 3:34 to emphasize God's different attitudes toward the proud and the humble. God opposes (lit., "sets Himself against") the arrogant but grants favor and acceptance to the humble.
- ▶ *"With those who scorn, he is scornful, but to those who are humble, he gives favor."* (Proverbs 3:34, LEB)
- ▶ [If there is one person you don't want against you, it is God!]

29 **Proverbs 5:6-7**

- ▶ *"She [wisdom] does not observe the path of life; her ways wander, and she does not know it. Now, O children, listen to me; do not depart from the sayings of my mouth."* (Proverbs 5:6–7, LEB)

30 **Allow yourself to be humbled**

- ▶ 5:6–7. Knowing God's attitude should cause Christians not only to be subject to others but also to subject themselves deliberately to God's sovereign rule.
- ▶ The command *humble yourselves (tapeinōthēte)* could be translated *"allow yourselves to be humbled."* Those who were suffering persecution for Christ's sake could be encouraged by the fact that the same mighty hand that let them suffer would one day lift (*hypsōsē*, "exalt") them up (cf. James 4:10).

31 **The benefits of responding to criticism with humility**

- ▶ KEY Concept: Humility allows God's grace to come upon you
- ▶ Removes yourself from God's opposition
- ▶ Demonstrates control and a better character
- ▶ Disarms the one criticizing you
- ▶ Key: Do not explain, blame, or defend
 - ▶ Try to see offense from their point of view
 - ▶ ASK FORGIVENESS for offenses

32 **The mighty hand of God**

- ▶ When Peter said they are to humble themselves under God's "mighty hand" (*krataian cheira*), he used an expression that is associated particularly with God's delivering Israel out of Egypt
 - ▶ Exod 3:19; 32:11; Deut 4:34; 5:15; 6:21; 7:8, 19; 9:26; 11:2; 26:8; Dan 9:15

▶ *"And remember that thou wast a servant in the land of Egypt, and that the LORD thy God brought thee out thence through a mighty hand and by a stretched out arm: therefore the LORD thy God commanded thee to keep the sabbath day."* (Deuteronomy 5:15, KJV 1900)

33 **The mighty hand of God (2)**

▶ *Just as the Lord delivered his people from Egypt, so he would vindicate his people in Asia Minor who suffered. The image of a mighty hand emphasizes the power of God. Believers humble themselves before a mighty God, the all-powerful one. Humility should not be seen as the ultimate goal here. Those who humble themselves before the Lord will be exalted. The theme that the humble will be exalted can be traced back to the teaching of Jesus (Matt 23:12; Luke 14:11; 18:14), and there is no reason to doubt that Peter recalled the teaching of his Lord here*

▶ Schreiner, Thomas R. 1, 2 Peter, Jude. Vol. 37. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2003. Print. The New American Commentary.



34 **Take it home!**

▶ Do you want to experience the grace of God?

▶ Humble yourself before Him daily

▶ Do you want to be protected from the influence of Satan?

▶ Get under biblical authorities: Government, Employer, Family, and Church

35 **Take it home! (2)**

▶ Do you want to avoid the death wobble in your family?

▶ Make love deposits!

▶ You must make more deposits than withdrawals!

36 **Stop worrying!**

37 **Remember Christ's encouragement**

▶ Peter then referred to Christ's classic words of encouragement in the Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 6:25–32), while quoting Psalm 55:22: *"Cast your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you."*

▶ Times of criticism or concerns about submitting to authority can be worrying

38 **Matthew 6:25-32**

For this reason I say to you, do not be anxious for your life, what you will eat, and not for your body, what you will wear. Is your life not more than food and your body more than clothing? Consider the birds of the sky, that they do not sow or reap or gather produce into barns, and your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth more than they are? And who among you, by being anxious, is able to add one hour to his life span?

39 **Matthew 6:25-32 (continued)**

And why are you anxious about clothing? Observe the lilies of the field, how they grow: they do not toil or spin, but I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory was dressed like one of these. But if God dresses the grass of the field in this way, although it is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not do so much more for you, you of little faith?

40 **Matthew 6:25-32 (continued)**

Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?'; for the pagans seek after all these things. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things." (Matthew 6:25–32, LEB)

41 **Cast your cares upon Christ**

- ▶ All a believer's anxieties can be cast on Christ.
- ▶ Christ sustains because He cares.
- ▶ A Christian's confidence rests in the fact that Christ is genuinely concerned for his welfare.
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