

THE NEED FOR HUMILITY

I. HUMILITY AND FEARING THE LORD GO TOGETHER

"Humility and the fear of the Lord bring wealth, honor and life." Proverbs 22:4

II. WHAT IS HUMILITY AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

A. Humility (Vines) – it *"primarily signifies low-lying. It is used always in a good sense in the New Testament."* It means *"low degree, brought low, or of low estate."*

B. It means believing the truth about God. Philippians 2:3 - *"with humility of mind."* To be humble means you know in your mind truths about God and yourself, and who you are in relationship to Him, and specifically that you are lower than God.

C. To be humble means you know that God is your Creator, that He is infinitely wiser than you, that He is perfectly holy, and that you deserve to be punished. Having true humility is a pre-requisite for salvation. Job 22:29 - *"The humble person He will save."* Matthew 5:3

III. "HUMBLE YOURSELF IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD" – James 4:10

A. God commands you to humble yourself because it is the right and good thing to do.

B. You are to personally humble yourself in the presence of God. It means you realize that God is in charge, and that you respect Him, and will do what He wants you to do.

C. You are to submit to God and one another, to rank yourself under them. Humility has to do with the heart, and submission relates to your actions. Husbands, wives, children and workers are to all submit to those in authority over them. Ephesians 5:21-6:9. Most problems in life are related to a lack of humility and submission.

D. The promise is that God will exalt you, that God Himself will bless you. He is the only One who really has the ability to exalt and bless you. This is primarily a spiritual blessing. People who are proud are not humble, and people who are not humble are proud. Proverbs 15:33, 29:23; Matthew 23:12; 1 Peter 5:16

IV. "CLOTHE YOURSELF WITH HUMILITY TOWARD ONE ANOTHER" - 1 Peter 5:5

A. You are to be humble in all that you think, say or do.

B. Humility towards God will be seen in your humility towards others.

C. God is strongly opposed to the proud. If you are proud, God will humble you, and He alone knows how to humble you. Daniel 5:22-30, Acts 12:21-23, Exodus 10:3, Jonah 1:17, Jonah 2, Daniel 4:34-37, 2 Chronicles 33:1-13

V. HOW ELSE IS HUMILITY SEEN IN YOUR LIFE?

A. When you praise God. Praising God, singing to God, worshiping God is a humbling thing to do, for you are putting God in His proper place. Psalm 34:1-3

B. When you pray. You are admitting to God your dependence on Him for His wisdom and power. Psalm 34:4

C. When you confess your sins to God. Nehemiah 1:6, Daniel 9

D. When you obey God, for you are doing what your Lord wants you to do.

VI. EXAMPLES OF HUMILITY

A. Jesus is our best and most important example of humility. He humbled Himself more than anyone else in this world, for as a man, He died on a cross. Philippians 2:3-11

B. Paul was a very humble man, for he obeyed God and he suffered for God. Acts 20:19

C. Moses was very humble, for he led 2,000,000 stubborn and rebellious Jews through the desert for 40 years. Numbers 12:3

D. Mary, the mother of Jesus, was a humble servant of God. Luke 1:46

HUMBLE YOURSELF UNDER THE MIGHTY HAND OF GOD,
THAT HE MAY EXALT YOU AT THE PROPER TIME.

1 Peter 5:6

SOME QUESTIONS TO ANSWER:

1. What is the main thing that you believe God wants you to learn from this lesson?
2. How would you define humility? Why is humility important?
3. What does it mean to humble yourself before God? What does it look like?
4. Explain submission. How is submission seen in your life, and in your relationships?
5. What happens if you are not humble? How has God humbled you in the past?
6. How can you grow in being humble? In what you think, say and do?
7. Think of how Jesus was humble. How is His life an example to your life?