

Humility and Pride
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Scripture Points

“And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God” (Micah 6:8).

- Humility is one of the most important virtues at the core of our spiritual lives.
- In order to do justice and love kindness we need to humble ourselves.
- Justice, love and kindness demand that we get our eyes off of ourselves and really look to others – the opposite of pride.

“The fear of the Lord is the instruction for wisdom, and before honor comes humility” (Prov. 15:33).

- One of the best antidotes to our pride is to know God and to worship and fear Him.
- This humbling of ourselves before God is a precondition for gaining wisdom because we have to become teachable.
- Often those who are honored are humble. They don't think themselves better than they are in reality (or worse). Prov. 16:18 – Pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before stumbling (Prov. 16:18 & 18:12).

“Before destruction the heart of a man is haughty, but humility goes before honor”

(Prov. 18:12).

- Pride sets up a person for a fall because it makes them unaware of potential dangers around them.
- That lack of caution leads the proud person to destruction.
- Again, those who are truly humble are often honored.

“The reward of humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, honor, and life” (Prov.

22:4).

- Humility has its rewards.
- Humility starts in a proper fear of the Lord – an awe and reverence for Him.
- Humility can lead to riches because the humble person is able to make wise and realistic decisions, knowing what they can and cannot do.
- Humility leads to life because we are not burdened with trying to be something we are not.

“Everyone who is proud is an abomination to the Lord” (Prov. 16:5).

- The Lord hates a proud attitude.
- While we are looking at ourselves it is almost impossible to see God or others.
- Pride is a kind of self-deification – thinking that we are the center of the universe.

“When Pride comes, then comes disgrace (a trap), but with humility comes wisdom” (Prov. 11:2).

“A man who flatters his neighbor is spreading a net for his steps” (Prov. 29:5).

- The proud person walks through the world oblivious of the landmines present – they are unaware of traps or nets set for them.
- Wisdom requires humility because you have to admit that there are things you don’t know.
- Learning gentleness and humility from Jesus is not a heavy burden but leads to rest and peace.
- Jesus was exactly aware of who He was, no more, no less. He can be an example to us in this area.

“And whoever exalts himself shall be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted” (Matt. 23:12; Also in Luke 14:11, 18:14).

- Jesus has come to turn upside down the values of this world. The proud will be humbled and the humble exalted.
- Be humble now or be humbled later.
- In Luke 14:11 the context is a banquet. Jesus notices people taking seats of honor. He recommends taking the lower place so that the host can say, “come up to the higher place.” The other option is to sit in the higher place and be humbled by having the host say, “You don’t belong there, take this lower seat.”

- The Luke 18 passage is in the context of the Parable of the Pharisee and the Publican. The Pharisee exalted himself because of his self-perceived righteousness and the Publican humbled himself saying, “God be merciful to me a sinner.” Jesus says that the Publican went down to his house justified (not the Pharisee).

“God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble” (James 4:6 and I Peter 5:5).

- Pride is the attitude that leads you to be opposed to God and God to you.
- The humble can receive grace, but the proud think they need nothing.
- The passage in I Peter 5 warns that humility is essential for leaders (and followers) in the Church.

(1) “Therefore, I exhort the elders among you as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed,
 (2) shepherd the flock of God among you; not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; (3) nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock.
 (4) And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.
 (5) You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble. (6) Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time” (I Peter 5:1-6).

- Note the way elders are not to conduct themselves (vs. 3) nor yet as lording it over those under them. Beware of a church leader that says in effect, “Mah way is Yaweh.”
- Beware too of an insistence on titles and chain of command – the leadership is to be more from moral authority – proving to be examples – than from authoritarian insistence.
- We are to subject to leaders (vs. 5) but to counter the inevitable danger, everyone (including especially leaders) is to be clothed with humility (vs. 5).
- God is opposed to the proud but humility will lead to exaltation (vs. 5-6).

(3) “Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself; (4) do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. (5) Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, (6) who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, (7) but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond servant and being made in the likeness of men; (8) and being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross” (Phil. 2:3-8).

- We are to regard each person as equal to ourselves, in worth, value, and dignity.
- We are to look out for others’ interests, not merely our own.

- We are following Jesus' way of humility. Jesus was equal with God (form of God) but nevertheless emptied Himself of divine prerogatives and humbled Himself.
- Jesus humbled Himself in life by being a servant and in death on a cross.

“For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world” (I John 2:16).

- Worldliness consists of lust and pride. Lust of the flesh (sexual or other bodily pleasures) and lust of the eyes, perhaps greed, that wishes to acquire things.
- Note that the pride of life is boastful – glorying in superiority and letting others know about it.
- This worldly way of life is an antithesis to what the Father wants.

(13) “You call me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. (14) If I, then, the Lord and Teacher, washed your feet you also ought to wash one another's feet. (15) For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you. (16) Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master; neither one who is sent greater than the one who sent him. (17) If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them” (John 13:13-17).

- This passage follows the washing of the disciples' feet – something that even servants were not required to do.

- Jesus even washed Judas' feet, knowing that he would betray Him. (John 13:2; 13:18-19)
- Jesus wants us to follow his example, sometimes literally, and also metaphorically.
- We will be blessed if we put these truths into practice.