

The Word became flesh  
Part 5

The power of humility

1/8/2012

Five tests of humility

1. What do you do when somebody wrongs you? Do you anger easily? That's pride.
2. When was the last time you consciously decided to forgive somebody for some wrong they did to you? Was it long ago? Do you only rarely forgive others? That's pride.
3. How often do you ask God for favors in prayer? Rarely? That's pride.
4. Are you easily annoyed by other people? That's pride.
5. When you experience success or good fortune, do you boast about it? That's pride.

Today we are going to compare and contrast two important character qualities: Humility and Pride.

I. Humility is the channel through which God brings everything that is good into my life.

1. God loves humility

- Humility promotes God and others, rather than self.
  - 1) Humility considers God in one's lifestyle.
  - 2) Consults with God in decisions.
  - 3) Desires to serve and worship God before self.
  - 4) Is often characterized by thoughtfulness and sensitivity.

5) Genuinely seeks God, seeks to please God.

2. Humility benefits the individual

A. Humility is constructive

“Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. Better to be of a humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud.” Proverbs 16:18-19

Would you rather be around a constructive person or some who is destructive?

“Before destruction the heart of a man is haughty, and before honor is humility.” Proverbs 18:12

B. Humility brings wisdom

“When pride comes, then comes shame; but with the humble is wisdom.” Proverbs 11:2

C. Humility brings hope

“Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him.” Proverbs 26:12

A humble person can learn something new. A proud person is incapable of learning anything new.

D. Humility causes a person to seek God

“The wicked in his proud countenance does not seek God; God is in none of his thoughts.” Psalm 10:4

3. God blesses the humble

A. God gives them honor

“A man's pride will bring him low, but the humble in spirit will retain honor.” Proverbs 29:23

B. God actively engages in the lives of the humble

“But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” James 4:6-10

If God is actively engaged in my daily life, then there is no telling what great and wonderful things could happen to me.

#### 4. Humility opens my eyes to my true spiritual condition

“And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write... “I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.” Revelation 3:14-17

#### Some beautiful quotes about humility:

“Humility is recognizing that God and others are responsible for the achievements in my life.” Bill Gothard

“Humility is perfect quietness of heart. It is to have no trouble. It is never to be fretted or irritated or sore or disappointed. It is to expect nothing, to wonder at nothing that is done to me. It is to be at rest when nobody praises me and when I am blamed or despised. It is to go in and shut the door and kneel to my Father in secret, and be at peace as in the deep sea of calmness when all around and above is trouble.” Andrew Murray (1828-1917)

“I used to think that God’s gifts were on shelves one above the other and that the taller we grew in Christian character the more easily we could reach them. I now find that God’s gifts are on shelves one beneath the other and that it is not a question of growing taller but of stooping lower.” F. B. Meyer (1847-1929)

“I’ve never known a person whom I thought was truly filled with the Holy Spirit who went out and bragged about it or sought to draw attention to himself.” Billy Graham

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

II. If and when, I truly humble myself, I can count on...

#### A. God’s Grace

“The curse of the LORD is on the house of the wicked, but He blesses the home of the just. Surely He scorns the scornful, but gives grace to the humble.” Proverbs 3:33-34

God gives us what we need when we humble ourselves before him, not because we are now somehow deserving, but because we have finally come to the realization that we are not!

#### B. God’s Forgiveness

“He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy. Happy is the man who is always reverent, but he who hardens his heart will fall into calamity.” Proverbs 28:13-14

#### C. God’s Blessing

“Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.” 1 Peter 5:5-7

#### D. God’s Ear

“LORD, you have heard the desire of the humble; you will prepare their heart; you will cause your ear to hear, to do justice to the fatherless and the oppressed, that the man of the earth may oppress no more.” Psalm 10:17-18