

Understanding Christian Humility

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

- A. In some areas of life, being self-confident is necessary. There are times when we find comfort in trusting our own understanding of a subject or our own counsel under pressure.
 - 1. Confidence is not pride. When brethren mistake one for the other, they do so in ignorance.
 - a. True humility is not an abject, groveling, self-despising spirit; it is simply a correct estimate of ourselves as God sees us.
 - b. Humility is not denying the power we have, but an admission that the power we have comes through us and not from us. To deny our power is to lie.
 - 2. Pretended or excessive humility prevents one from using his talents in the kingdom, and does harm, just as does pride.
 - 3. Not addressing humility between disciples.
- B. In spiritual matters and in yielding in obedience to God, humility is paramount.
- C. Humbling one's self before the Lord is a must, if he wants to dwell in heaven.

I. OLD TESTAMENT HUMILITY TEXTS

- A. The Lord will save the humble - Psalms 18:25-27
- B. Humility brings wisdom - Prov. 11:2
- C. Humility brings honor - Prov. 29:23
- D. Contrite, humble spirit captures the Lord's interest & care. - Isa. 57:15, 66:1-2
- E. The Lord will establish a humble people who trust in Him - Zeph. 3:11-12

II. NEW TESTAMENT HUMILITY TEXTS

- A. We must humble ourselves as little children - Matt. 18:3-5
- B. We must choose to cultivate humility - Matt. 23:8-12
- C. We should not set our mind upon high things, but rather seek to associate with the humble - Rom. 12:16
- D. We robe ourselves in humility - Col. 3:12-14
- E. God rewards the humble - James 4:6-10; 1Peter 5:5-6

III. ILLUSTRATIONS OF HUMILITY

- A. Num. 12:3, 7 - What characteristic demonstrated Moses' humility?
 - 1. Moses was faithful to God, submitting himself to His superior will.
- B. Job 1:20-22 - What characteristic demonstrated Job's humility?
 - 1. Job did not question the wisdom of God.
- C. Acts 13:22 - What characteristic demonstrated David's humility?
 - 1. David did everything God told him to do, and repented when he did not.

IV. APPLICATION OF HUMILITY

- A. What will manifest our own humility toward God?
 - 1. 1John 1:8-10; Luke 18:9-14

Conclusion:

- A. "Being a humble instrument in the hands of our heavenly Father, I desire that all my words and acts may be according to His will; and that it may be so, I give thanks to the Almighty, and seek His aid." (Abraham Lincoln)
- B. True humility is intelligent self-respect that keeps us from thinking too highly or too meanly of ourselves. It makes us mindful of the nobility God meant us to have. Yet it makes us modest by reminding us how far we have come short of what we can be.
- C. Humility is strong, not bold; quiet, not speechless; sure, not arrogant.
- D. The Bible is clear regarding the need for humility in attitude and action.
 - 1. We must willingly humble ourselves before the Lord.
 - 2. We must put His will (as revealed in the Bible) above our own will.
 - 3. We must set aside pride, arrogance, and self-justification.
- E. This same humility will help us in our relationships with each other. By removing pride, arrogance, and self-justification, we will be able to successfully address problems, situations, and misunderstandings with the proper spirit of Christ.