

Humility or Defeatism

(Part Two: Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

- A. There is so much confusion over what should be a simple Christian characteristic, because it is a desirable trait we all want to claim; however, we want to define it according to our own wishes rather than by its Biblical use.
- B. What is known about humility?
 - 1. "Humility is the quality of being modest and respectful; comes from the Latin word humilitas, a noun meaning grounded or from the earth; it derives from humus or earth; it includes self-understanding and awareness, openness, and perspective" (Wikipedia).
 - 2. Thomas Aquinas defines humility as "the virtue consisting in keeping oneself within one's own bounds, not reaching out to things above one, but submitting to one's superior" (Summa Contra Gent., bk. IV, ch. IV).
 - 3. It is more than just keeping one's head down and eyes low
- C. Contrary to the misinformed, humility is a sign of godly strength and purpose, not weakness - Num. 12:3
 - 1. "Humility does not mean thinking less of yourself than of other people, nor does it mean having a low opinion of your own gifts. It means freedom from thinking about yourself at all" William Temple (1881-1944)
 - 2. "Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could only do a little." Edmund Burke
- D. The truly, Biblically humble know that there are higher needs and purposes than his own, and gladly serves them
 - 1. "Any man worth his salt will stick up for what he believes right, but it takes a slightly better man to acknowledge instantly and without reservation that he is in error." Andrew Jackson
 - 2. "Count no day lost in which you waited your turn, took only your share and sought advantage over no one."
 - 3. "Drop the idea that you are Atlas carrying the world on your shoulders. The world would go on even without you. Don't take yourself so seriously."

I. HUMILITY

- A. 2Kings 5:13-15 - Humility moves us in the direction of spiritual health
 - 1. One cannot find God until he humbles himself
- B. What is true humility?
 - 1. It is not thinking too highly of ourselves - Zeph. 3:12
 - 2. It is being childlike - Matt. 18:4
 - 3. It is being gentle - Titus 3:2
 - 4. It is willingness to confess sin - Psalm 51:3-4
 - 5. It is not needing to prove ourselves - Prov. 12:23
 - 6. It is being willing to take advice - Prov. 13:10
 - 7. It is refusing to speak evil of a brother - James 4:11-12
 - 8. It is refusing to boast about our plans - James 4:13-16

C. How was Jesus humble?

1. Jesus is King of kings, yet He rode an unbroken donkey in His entry procession into Jerusalem - Zech. 9:9
2. Jesus is God, yet He made Himself nothing and suffered death on the cross for us - Phil. 2:5-8
3. Jesus has all glory and honor, but He died so that we could be saved - Heb. 2:9
4. Jesus is the perfect example of gentleness and humility - Matt. 11:29

D. How do I become humble?

1. Humility comes when we recognize that we need God and depend on Him to meet our needs - Deut. 8:2-3
2. Humility comes from developing sympathetic hearts toward others -
 - a. 1Peter 3:8
3. Humility means thinking of others more than ourselves - Phil. 2:3
4. Humility means accepting the authority given to others - 1Peter 5:5
5. Humility is true strength, for it reaches into the kingdom of Heaven. Pride is true weakness, for it reaches no further than our own ego.
 - a. 1Peter 5:6

E. Humility makes us rich in Christ; defeatism robs us of Christian joy

1. God blesses the humble - Psalm 18:27; Isa. 57:15
2. Humility is the path to greatness - Matt. 23:12