

# Humility or Defeatism

Conclusion

# Humility

- “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).
- 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).
- Clearly it is more than just keeping one's head down and eyes low

# Humility

- Contrary to the misinformed, humility is a sign of godly strength and purpose, not weakness
  - Num. 12:3 - “Now the man Moses was very humble, more than all men who were on the face of the earth.”
  - However, after Jesus Christ, he was the most religiously influential man that ever lived.

# Humility

- “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)
- “Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could only do a little.” (Edmund Burke)

# Humility

- The truly, Biblically humble know that there are higher needs and purposes than his own, and gladly serves them
- “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
- “Count no day lost in which you waited your turn, took only your share and sought advantage over no one.”
- “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.”

# Humility

- 2Kings 5:13-15 - “And his servants came near and spoke to him, and said, My father, if the prophet had told you to do something great, would you not have done it? How much more then, when he says to you, 'Wash, and be clean'? 14 So he went down and dipped seven times in the Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean. 15 And he returned to the man of God, he and all his aides, and came and stood before him; and he said, Indeed, now I know that there is no God in all the earth, except in Israel; now therefore, please take a gift from your servant.”

# What Is True Humility?

- It is not thinking too highly of ourselves
  - Zeph. 3:12 - “I will leave in your midst A meek and humble people, And they shall trust in the name of the LORD.”
- It is being childlike
  - Matt. 18:4 - “Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”

# What Is True Humility?

- It is being gentle
  - Titus 3:2 - “To speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men”
- It is willingness to confess sin
  - Psalm 51:3-4 - “For I acknowledge my transgressions, And my sin is always before me. 4 Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done this evil in Your sight-That You may be found just when You speak, And blameless when You judge.”

# What Is True Humility?

- It is not needing to prove ourselves
  - Prov. 12:23 - “A prudent man conceals knowledge”
- It is being willing to take advice
  - Prov. 13:10 - “By pride comes nothing but strife,  
But with the well-advised is wisdom.”

# What Is True Humility?

- It is refusing to speak evil of a brother
  - James 4:11-12 - “Do not speak evil of one another ... Who are you to judge another?”
- It is refusing to boast about our plans
  - James 4:13, 15-16 - “Come now, you who say, Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit; 15 Instead you ought to say, If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that. 16 But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.”

# How Was Jesus Humble?

- Jesus is King of kings, yet He rode an unbroken donkey in His entry procession into Jerusalem
  - Zech. 9:9
- Jesus is God, yet He made Himself nothing and suffered death on the cross for us
  - Phil. 2:5-8

# How Was Jesus Humble?

- Jesus has all glory and honor, but He died so that we could be saved
  - Heb. 2:9
- Jesus is the perfect example of gentleness and humility
  - Matt. 11:29 - “...for I am gentle and lowly in heart”

# How Do I Become Humble?

- Humility comes when we recognize we need God and depend on Him to meet our needs
  - Deut. 8:2-3 - “And you shall remember that the LORD your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. 3 So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD.”

# How Do I Become Humble?

- Humility comes from developing a sympathetic heart toward others
  - 1Peter 3:8 - “Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous”
- Humility means thinking of others more than ourselves
  - Phil. 2:3 - “Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.”

# How Do I Become Humble?

- Humility means accepting the authority given to others
  - 1Peter 5:5 - “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.”
- 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.
  - 1Peter 5:6 - “Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God that He may exalt you in due time”

# Humility or Defeatism

- Humility makes us rich in Christ; defeatism robs us of Christian joy
- God blesses the humble
  - Psalm 18:27 - “For You will save the humble people, But will bring down haughty looks.”
  - Isa. 57:15 - “For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: I dwell in the high and holy place, With him who has a contrite and humble spirit, To revive the spirit of the humble, And to revive the heart of the contrite ones.”

# Humility or Defeatism

- Humility makes us rich in Christ; defeatism robs us of Christian joy
- Humility is the path to greatness
  - Matt. 23:12 - “And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”