

Pride and Humility

Zephaniah 2:3

Seek the LORD, All you humble of the earth
Who have carried out His ordinances; Seek righteousness, seek humility .
Perhaps you will be hidden In the day of the LORD'S anger. NASB

Humility – We must always look to the interests of others, not just our own interests. We must learn to esteem others more highly than themselves, to be lowly and thankful and appreciative of others. Humble people are focused on God and others, not on self. We must learn to reserve judgment for God.

Humility – Lowliness of mind, a modest disposition toward God and others, a low estimate of self

Humility is the well spring of virtue!

Without humility, we cannot possess any good virtue from God. Humility is the one disposition that will enable us to be all that Christ wants us to be! Without humility, we cannot relate to God and others properly. In order to live a godly life and have a godly home, we must be **HUMBLE** people.

We cannot come to God without it –

Luke 18:9-14 - 9 And He also told this parable to certain ones who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt: 10 "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee, and the other a tax-gatherer. 11 "The Pharisee stood and was praying thus to himself, 'God, I thank Thee that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax-gatherer. 12'I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.' 13 "But the tax-gatherer, standing some distance away, **was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, the sinner!'** 14 "I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself shall be humbled, but he who humbles himself shall be exalted." NASB

We cannot love and serve others without it –

Philippians 2:3-4 - 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. NASB

God gives grace to the humble –

1 Peter 5:5-6 - 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, NASB

We cannot resist sin without it – Pride Read pg 2(except the last paragraph)

Proverbs 16:5 - 5 **Everyone who is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD;** Assuredly, he will not be unpunished. NASB

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

What relation do you suppose pride has to sin?

Isaiah 14:12-15 - 12 "How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations! 13 "But you said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north. 14'I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.' 15 "Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, To the recesses of the pit. NASB

A few characteristics of Humility - Discuss

To esteem others more highly than ourselves –

Romans 12:10 - 10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; **give preference to one another in honor**; NASB

Showing patience and forbearance

Ephesians 4:1-4 - 4:1 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, entreat you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, 2 **with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing forbearance to one another in love**, 3 being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. NASB

Gentleness

James 3:17-18 - 17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, **gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits**, unwavering, without hypocrisy. 18 And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace. NASB

Gratefulness/Thankfulness

1 Thessalonians 5:18 - 18 in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. NASB

Parents, we must teach our kids to be humble!

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A few characteristics of Pride -

Pride – to esteem oneself more highly than others, a high estimate of self, a focus on self and the service of self, a pursuit of self-recognition and self exaltation, and a desire to control others and circumstances for selfish purposes

Self-Exaltation – To lift oneself up, to estimate oneself higher than others, to be conceited, to scoff at others, to be haughty

Luke 18:14 - "I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for **everyone who exalts himself shall be humbled**, but he who humbles himself shall be exalted." NASB

Proverbs 16:18 - 18 **Pride goes before destruction**, And a haughty spirit before stumbling. NASB

Proverbs 18:12 - 12 **Before destruction the heart of man is haughty**, But humility goes before honor. NASB

Proverbs 29:23 - 23 A **man's pride will bring him low**, But a humble spirit will obtain honor.
NASB

Isaiah 2:11-12 - 11 The proud look of man will be abased, **And the loftiness of man will be humbled**, And the LORD alone will be exalted in that day. 12 For the LORD of hosts will have a **day of reckoning Against everyone who is proud and lofty, And against everyone who is lifted up, That he may be abased.** NASB

Self-will – to live by the dictates of your own will, to do what you want apart from God's will, to oppose God and His commandments

Isaiah 14:12-14 - 2 "How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations! 13 "But you said in your heart, **I will** ascend to heaven; **I will** raise my throne above the stars of God, And **I will** sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north. 14 **I will** ascend above the heights of the clouds; **I will** make myself like the Most High.' NASB

2 Chronicles 26:16-21 - 16 But when he became strong, **his heart was so proud that he acted corruptly, and he was unfaithful to the LORD his God, for he entered the temple of the LORD to burn incense on the altar of incense.** 17 Then Azariah the priest entered after him and with him eighty priests of the LORD, valiant men. 18 And they opposed Uzziah the king and said to him, "It is not for you, Uzziah, to burn incense to the LORD, but for the priests, the sons of Aaron who are consecrated to burn incense. Get out of the sanctuary, for you have been unfaithful, and will have no honor from the LORD God." 19 **But Uzziah, with a censer in his hand for burning incense, was enraged; and while he was enraged with the priests, the leprosy broke out on his forehead before the priests in the house of the LORD, beside the altar of incense.** 20 And Azariah the chief priest and all the priests looked at him, and behold, he was leprous on his forehead; and they hurried him out of there, and he himself also hastened to get out because the LORD had smitten him. 21 And King Uzziah was a leper to the day of his death; and he lived in a separate house, being a leper, for he was cut off from the house of the LORD. NASB

Self-righteousness – to consider oneself righteous in God's sight because of your own good works, to consider oneself as better than others, to view others with contempt

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Isaiah 65:5 - 5 "Who say, 'Keep to yourself, **do not come near me, For I am holier than you!**" These are smoke in My nostrils, A fire that burns all the day. NASB

James 2:1-4 - 2:1 My brethren, do not hold your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with an attitude of personal favoritism. 2 For if a man comes into your assembly with a gold ring and dressed in fine clothes, and there also comes in a poor man in dirty clothes, 3 **and you pay special attention** to the one who is wearing the fine clothes, and say, "You sit here in a good place," and you say to the poor man, "You stand over there, or sit down by my footstool," 4 **have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil motives?** NASB

Self-reliance – to rely on oneself, to live by your own strength, to face trials and temptations without trust in God and His sovereignty,

Deuteronomy 1:32-36 - 32 "But for all this, **you did not trust the LORD your God**, 33 who goes before you on your way, to seek out a place for you to encamp, in fire by night and cloud by

day, to show you the way in which you should go. 34 "Then the LORD heard the sound of your words, and He was angry and took an oath, saying, 35'Not one of these men, this evil generation, shall see the good land which I swore to give your fathers, NASB

Psalms 78:21-22 - 21 Therefore the LORD heard and was full of wrath, And a fire was kindled against Jacob, And anger also mounted against Israel; 22 Because they did not believe in God, And did not trust in His salvation. NASB

Isaiah 30:33 - Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help, And rely on horses, And trust in chariots because they are many, And in horsemen because they are very strong, But they do not look to the Holy One of Israel, nor seek the LORD! NASB

Psalms 33:16-17 - 16 The king is not saved by a mighty army; A warrior is not delivered by great strength. 17 A horse is a false hope for victory; Nor does it deliver anyone by its great strength. NASB

James 4:6

But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says,
"God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble." NASB

God opposes the proud - The proud are those who have an improper self-esteem; who have a high and unreasonable conceit of their own excellence or importance. Here are a few things we can become proud about:

beauty – strength – attainments – family – country – possessions – rank – religion

Proverbs 8:13 - 13 "The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; **Pride and arrogance and the evil way, And the perverted mouth, I hate.** NASB

Some biblical examples of God's opposition to the pride of man.

Daniel 4:1-37 - 37 "Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise, exalt, and honor the King of heaven, for all His works are true and His ways just, and **He is able to humble those who walk in pride.**" NASB

Daniel 5:1-31 - 30 That same night Belshazzar the Chaldean king was slain. 31 So Darius the Mede received the kingdom at about the age of sixty-two. NASB

Acts 12:21-23 - 1 And on an appointed day Herod, having put on his royal apparel, took his seat on the rostrum and began delivering an address to them. 22 And the people kept crying out, "The voice of a god and not of a man!" 23 And **immediately an angel of the Lord struck him because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and died.** NASB

God Gives Grace to the Humble - In order to live a godly life and have a godly home, we must be **HUMBLE** people. We must learn to esteem others more highly than themselves, to be lowly and thankful and appreciative of others. We must always look to the interests of others, not just our own interests. Humble people are focused on God and others, not on self. Without humility, we cannot relate to God and others properly. Humility is the one disposition that will enable us to be all that Christ wants us to be!

Humility – Lowliness of mind, a modest disposition toward God and others, a low estimate of self

Isaiah 57:15 - 15 For thus says the high and exalted One Who lives forever, whose name is Holy, "I dwell on a high and holy place, And also **with the contrite and lowly of spirit** In order to revive the spirit of the lowly And to revive the heart of the contrite. NASB

To esteem others more highly than ourselves –

Romans 12:10 - 10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; **give preference to one another in honor;** NASB

Showing patience and forbearance

Ephesians 4:1-4 - 4:1 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, entreat you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, 2 **with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing forbearance to one another in love**, 3 being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. NASB

Gentleness

James 3:17-18 - 17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, **gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits**, unwavering, without hypocrisy. 18 And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace. NASB

Gratefulness/Thankfulness

1 Thessalonians 5:18 - 18 in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. NASB

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We must avoid developing an improper estimation of ourselves at all costs. This is because God hates the pride of man.

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1 Thessalonians 5:18 - 18 in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. NASB

Romans 12:9-18 - 9 Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. 10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; 11 not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; 12 rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, 13 contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality. 14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and curse not. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. 16 Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation. 17 Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. 18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. NASB

Barnes writes;

“This resistance of pride he shows not only in the explicit declarations of his word, but in the arrangements of his providence and grace.

(1.) In his providence, in the reverses and disappointments which occur; in the necessity of abandoning the splendid mansion which we had built, or in disappointing us in some favourite plan by which our pride was to be nurtured and gratified.

(2.) In sickness, taking away the beauty, and strength on which we had so much valued ourselves, and bringing us to the sad condition of a sick bed.

(3.) In the grave, bringing us down to corruption and worms. Why should one be proud who will soon become so offensive to his best friends that they will gladly hide him in the grave?

(4.) In the plan of salvation he opposes our pride. Not a feature of that plan is fitted to foster pride, but all is adapted to make us humble.

(a) The necessity for the plan--that we are guilty and helpless sinners;

(b) the selection of a Saviour--one who was so poor, and who was so much despised by the world, and who was put to death, on a cross;

(c) our entire dependence on him for salvation, with the assurance that we have no merit of our own, and that salvation is all of grace;

(d) the fact that we are brought to embrace it only by the agency of the Holy Spirit, and that if we were left to ourselves we should never have one right thought or holy desire--all this is fitted to humble us, and to bring us low before God. God has done nothing to

foster the self-estimation of the human heart; but how much has he done to "stain the pride of all glory!" See Barnes for Isa 23:9.

Isaiah 2:11-12 - 11 The proud look of man will be abased, **And the loftiness of man will be humbled**, And the LORD alone will be exalted in that day. 12 For the LORD of hosts will have a **day of reckoning Against everyone who is proud and lofty, And against everyone who is lifted up, That he may be abased.** NASB

But giveth grace unto the humble. The meaning is, that he shows them favour; he bestows upon them the grace needful to secure their salvation. This he does

(1,) because they feel their need of his favour;

(2,) because they will welcome his teaching and value his friendship;

(3,) because all the arrangements of his grace are adapted only to such a state of mind. You cannot teach one who is so wise that he already supposes he knows enough; you cannot bestow grace on one who has no sense of the need of it. The arrangements of salvation are adapted only to an humble heart.

{a} "God resisteth the proud" Pr 29:23

A man may be proud of anything that belongs to him, or which can in any way be construed as a part of himself, or as pertaining to him. This does not, of course, apply to a correct estimate of ourselves, or to the mere knowledge that we may excel others. One may know that he has more strength, or higher attainments in learning or in the mechanic arts, or greater wealth than others, and yet have properly no pride in the case. He has only a correct estimate of himself, and he attaches no undue importance to himself on account of it. His heart is not lifted up; he claims no undue deference to himself; he concedes to all others what is their due; and he is humble before God, feeling that all that he has, and is, is nothing in his sight, he is willing to occupy his appropriate place in the sight of God and men, and to be esteemed just as he is.

"God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

James 4:6

What is pride? -undue self-esteem, conceit, haughtiness, high and dignified self-respect, too high an opinion of oneself

Prov erbs 18:12- Before his downfall a man's heart is proud, but humility comes before honor. (NIV)

Proverbs 11:2- When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom. (NIV)

Proverbs 21:24-The proud and arrogant man--" Mocker" is his name; he behaves with overweening pride. (NIV)

What is humble or humility? -not proud, having a low estimate of oneself, lowly, modest, submissive, the state of being humble, meekness

Proverbs 3:33-34-The LORD's curse is on the house of the wicked, but he blesses the home of the righteous.He mocks proud mockers but gives grace to the humble.(NIV)

Isaiah 66:2-Has not my hand made all these things, and so they came into being?" declares the LORD. "This is the one I esteem: he who is humble and contrite in spirit, and trembles at my word. (NIV)

Ephesians 4:2-Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. (NIV)

James 4:10-Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up. (NIV)

Proverbs22:4-Humility and the fear of the LORD bring wealth and honor and life.

James 3:13- Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. (NIV)

Romans12:10- Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. (NIV)

Romans 12:16- Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. (NIV)

1 Pet 5:5-6 -Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.(NIV)