

Christ-like humility

The Bible describes humility as meekness, lowliness, and absence of self. *Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;* (COL3:12) The Greek word translated “humility” means “lowliness of mind,” so, we see that humility is a mind attitude, not merely an outward conduct. It has been described as “the mind of Christ:, being like a child, etc. One may put on an outward show of humility but still have a heart full of pride and arrogance. Christ-like humility means believing what God says about you, not anyone else's opinion, including your own. To be humble is to be so free of concern for your own ego, high-mind you unreservedly lift those around you.

Philippians 2:5-11 tells us about the humility of Jesus. Paul invited the Philippians to do nothing out of selfish ambition, look to the needs of others, and have the humble attitude of Christ. *“Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.”* Jesus was GOD and yet, out of His great love for us, He chose to come to earth as a human. Jesus even chose to obey God the Father to the point of dying an embarrassing and painful death on the cross for our sins. Finally, in His hours of greatest suffering, Jesus subjected Himself to God the Father. And in perhaps His greatest act of humility, He allowed Himself to be hung upon the cross.

In his birth, Jesus embraced humility. God allowed his son to be born in the humblest of circumstances. God found a stable of animals to welcome His Son into the world. It was quiet and modest, and yet God took those humble beginnings to do something that would change the world. He, who was sinless and perfect, suffered and died for us. When Jesus chose to be baptized He had no need of forgiveness. Yet He was doing at least two important things. One, He demonstrated His affirmation of the ministry of forgiveness which John the Baptist preached. ... It was at His baptism, at His humility of obedience, that the Holy Spirit gave confirmation of who He was. Jesus is our ultimate example of humility. Out of obedience to His Father, He humbled Himself all the way to the point of death on the cross. The Bible says because of this that God exalted Him just like how it says He will exalt us. We had to humble ourselves to trust that Jesus is King and to ask Him to be our Lord and Savior. He always acknowledged that His strength came because of His dependence on His Father. He said: *“I can of mine own self do nothing. I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me”*(JOH5:30) Jesus - what was the result? Humankind was redeemed, Jesus was exalted and the Father was glorified.

Christ-like humility is necessary to enter the kingdom, it is also necessary to be great in the kingdom.(MAT20:26-27) Here Jesus is our model. Just as He did not come to be served, but to serve, so must we commit ourselves to serving others, considering their interests above our own.(PHI2:3) Service is always an opportunity to cultivate humility. Jesus demonstrated this when He knelt and washed the feet of the Apostles. This attitude prevents selfish ambition, pride, and the strife that comes with self-justification and self-defense. Jesus was not ashamed to humble Himself as a servant, even to death on the cross. In His humility, He was always obedient to the Father and so should the humble Christian be willing to put aside all selfishness and submit in obedience to God. True humility produces godliness, contentment, and security. Humility is one very important virtue every Christian must have, but you need to possess it in a way that glorifies God.

Proverbs 22:4 tells us that “humility is the fear of the LORD.” Jesus reiterates this need for humility in the Beatitudes. He says the “poor in spirit” will inherit the kingdom of heaven.(MAT5:3) To be poor in spirit is to admit one is spiritually empty and unable to please God apart from Christ’s sacrifice. Therefore, humility is a requirement for the Christian. When we come to Christ as sinners, we must come in humility. Humbling oneself is necessary for salvation. To be forgiven of our sins we need to be humble. Developing humility is a part of the repentance process. We recognize our lack of merit and our complete inability to save ourselves. If we humble ourselves, pray and turn away from sin, He will hear our prayers and forgive us. Then when He offers the grace and mercy of God, we accept it in humble gratitude and commit our lives to Him. The life we now live, we live by faith in the Son of God who loved us and gave Himself for us.(GAL2:20).

The Bible praise on the humble. Jesus, of course, modeled humility. *Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am meek and lowly in heart,*(MAT11:29) Jesus pointed out to his followers that he was humble. Moses was “more humble than any other person”(NUN12:3) Paul reminded the Corinthians, even though he was an apostle and their spiritual elder, he was humble when he was among them.(2CO10:1) Jesus taught those who wish to be great must be the most humble.(MAT23:12)

Humility requires God's grace. We still need Him in everything we do. We still need the Holy Spirit to guide us and give us wisdom in all matters. We still need help to practice things that are honorable, pure, lovely, commendable, or anything praiseworthy.. Humility is a driving virtue in the Christian life and community. Choosing to esteem others above oneself encourages harmony and love. The opposite of humility is pride. Prideful people typically believe they are better than others. They strive to get their way at the expense of others or boast as a way of boosting low self-esteem. When a person possesses humility they draw from internal “God-esteem.” They have received God’s unconditional love and embraced their inherent worth as God’s child. From this belief they are capable of lifting others up. John the Baptist says: *“he must increase, but I must decrease.”* What a humbling prayer! If you allow Jesus to be Lord of your life, you are allowing Him to become greater. You will become less and Christ will become greater. John is giving us a picture of what it means to be humble, and to seek Jesus before ourselves and our own gain. John lived and labored to see Jesus honored and glorified.

Often, humility is associated with quietness, submission, thoughts of insufficiency. But, what does Bible say about it?

1. Humility means submission, but not slaves. God's Word tells us that, as Christians, we are to submit to one another in lowliness of mind. *"Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility,"* (1PE5:5-6) By being submissive and clothing ourselves with humility, we can create peace and unity with the others. We are not to be so proud and high up that we can't accept correction or exhortation. Such thinking won't lead us to any progress or unity in Christ. At the same time, being submissive and humble does not mean in any way, shape or form that we are to bow down to other people. We are to serve God and God alone. (1CO 7:23) *"For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ."* (GAL1:10) While it is important to be submissive: to accept correction and remain lowly in our own eyes, we are to seek to please God with our lives. We need to fear Him and keep His word. This should be our focus: to humble ourselves under God's will and live, obedient to keep His commands, not to try to meet human demands and expectations.

2. Humility does not mean that we are silent, or inactive people: *"Do not let your adornment be merely outward...rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a meek and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God."* (1PE3:3-4) God desires that Christians possess a meek and quiet spirit. It is of the utmost importance that we are humble and still in our inner man, so that we can hear God's Spirit speaking to our hearts throughout the day. However, we should be inactive people. God also requires action and zeal in our lives. Jesus tells us that the kingdom of heaven is taken by force. (MAT11:12) All those who want a deeper life with Christ realize that they need to be zealous, as well as humble, in their inner man. Sin cannot be allowed to reign in the heart of a disciple! If we are humble in our inner man, having a desire to do God's will, then we will do whatever it takes to keep our hearts and minds pure. *"Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord."* (ROM12:11) Likewise, while we have a quiet spirit before Lord, there are situations where God wants us to be bold and speak up before others. Here, we need to forsake our own honor, reputation and obey Lord with all reverence. We should not question our authority or ability to say or do that God wants to be accomplished through us. Instead, we should allow God to use us exactly as He pleases in every situation.

3. Humility means we use our talents and spiritual gifts: *"For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned."* (ROM12: 3) To have a humble mindset is to think soberly about oneself. This means that we don't boast of our own accomplishments and abilities. Rather, we acknowledge that our sufficiency is of God in all of things. (2CO3:5) Nonetheless, this does not mean that we should neglect the spiritual gifts and the heavenly calling that God Himself has given to us. God wants to do a tremendous and transforming work in us and through our lives! He has equipped us each with our own talents and gifts and bought us with precious blood of His Son, Jesus Christ. (1PE1:18-20) God desires to be able to use us to His glory and for His purpose, and each of us should be aware of this. Humility is that we use our talents and capabilities under God's direction and leading, giving Him honor and glory for what is accomplished in and through our lives. *"As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory."* (1PE4:10-11)

4. Humility is the key to progress: *"God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you... Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up."* (JAM4:6-8,10) God works according to laws. It is a natural law that if we humble ourselves under God's mighty hand, surrendering our own will and honor, then He will give us the grace that we need to live a Christian life in truth, as well as exalt us in His time. To be humble is to have the same mindset as Jesus Christ. He existed in the form of God, but did not consider equality with God a thing to be grasped, or held onto. Instead, He took on the form of a servant, and came in the likeness of men. *"And, being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross."* (PHI2:7-8) Jesus is the ultimate example of humility. He did not value His own self-importance or honor, but freely gave it up in every situation so that God's will could be carried out and God could be glorified through His life. As a result, "Jesus" will be given the ultimate glory and honor.

If we are of this same humble mindset, forsaking our own reputation and honor in order to be obedient to God's word and will, we will be able to make unbelievable progress in our Christian lives! In fact, God pays very close attention to our hearts and is ready and eager to strengthen those who desire to live unto His honor and glory. *"Thus says the Lord: 'Heaven is My throne, and earth is My footstool. Where is the house that you will build Me? And where is the place of My rest? For all those things My hand has made, and all those things exist, says the Lord. 'But on this one will I look: On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word.'"* (ISA 66:1-2). God desires that we be among such ones, those who have a humble mindset and a desire and need to do His will, who tremble at His word. We are not to be rich and satisfied in ourselves. That is pride and stops God from doing a transforming work in our lives. Rather, we are to be humble and lowly of heart. Then God will give us the grace we need to make true progress in our Christian lives.

How to humble yourself?

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Humility can be defined as the absence of pride, just as darkness is the absence of light. God calls all people to humble themselves; *And to walk humbly with your God.* (MIC6:8) The prophet Zephaniah sums it up well: “*Seek the LORD, all you humble of the land, you who do what he commands. Seek righteousness, seek humility*” (ZEP2:3) Believers are reminded: humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up. (JAM4:10) God wants to exalt us and care for us. As we humble ourselves, that we truly worship Him. We’re trusting Him with on in our lives and believing He is the provider.

Humility increases when we are willing to be humbled by God, circumstances, and others. Our sinful natures do not want to be humbled. We tend to protect our pride, but pride gets in the way of our relationship with God. *He resists the prideful but gives grace to the humble.* (JAM4:6) He will work with us when we desire humility, but we find an added measure of grace to sustain us as we suffer through the refining process. The first step in humbling ourselves is to challenge our motives for the things we do. Whenever we see that our actions are prompt favorable opinions from others, we should bring it to the Lord for humble ourselves. When we make majority of our choices based on pleasing people, we may have a pride problem. We can confess our wrong motives and commit to doing only that which glorifies the Lord. Another step in humbling ourselves is to assess our response when we are not appreciated. Rather choose opportunity to learn humility.

Learning to be humble involves catching prideful moments and bringing them to the Lord so they cannot grow. Identifying areas of pride is a critical part of defeating it, so we must be prepared to agree with the Lord when He points them out to us. Bible gives examples of proud men who nevertheless humbled themselves when faced with the judgment of God. We see humility and pride struggling in the heart of the same person. King Hezekiah struggled with pride, but he humbled himself and turned away God’s wrath from Judah and Jerusalem. (2CH32:25–26) The wicked kings Ahab (1K121:27–29), Rehoboam (2CH12:1–12), and Manasseh (2CH33:10–13) all wisely chose to humble themselves and seek the Lord’s mercy.

Bible tells that envy and strife are not from God. God gives grace. (JAM4:6), and our response should be to submit to Him and resist the devil. (v.7) When you submit to God, your heart and desires change. We live humbly before God and others instead of demanding our own way and causing conflict. Ultimately, the solution is to humble ourselves in the sight of the Lord. When we humble ourselves, our hearts continually seek after God. We confess our pride, faults to God and allow Him to transform us into Christ’s likeness. In response, God gives grace to the humble but resists the proud. (PSA147:6)

Humbling ourselves in the sight of the Lord requires a true heart attitude of meekness. False humility is pridefulness, vanity, arrogant in disguise. False Humility occurs when we do not submit to God’s will and thankfully and fearlessly accept what He has done for us. Humble person avoids false humility, he is not interested in appearances. It’s one thing to put on a show of humility, but we’re not commanded to appear humble in the sight of others but to humble ourselves in the sight of the Lord, who sees the truth of the heart’s condition. They are proud in humility; proud in that they are not proud” The crafty nature of pride is that it can pretend as humility and creep into the lowliest of hearts. characteristics of a humble person is. They are not boastful. They are grateful for everything in life. They do not depreciate others. They are not jealous. They are not proud or rude. They are not materialistic. What are biblical benefits[Favor with God] of Humbleness? Humbleness prevents God’s wrath. God hears the humble. Humble obtain Wisdom. Lord lifts up the Humble.

We can willingly humble ourselves in the sight of the Lord, or we can be humbled by God Himself, a process that will be more painful in the long run—just ask Nebuchadnezzar. (DAN4) The prideful will receive destruction and punishment. When we abandon ourselves to the will of God, there is no room for pride. He may require us to do some humbling things, but it will be for our betterment. We cooperate with Him in the process working behind the scenes, helping when no one else does, reminding ourselves that our reward is in heaven. (MAT6:4) God promises the humble and fear of the LORD[or reverence]-riches, honor, life eternal. (PRO22:4) *He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way.* (PSA25:9)

God has promised to give grace to the humble, while He opposes the proud. (PRO3:34; IPE5:5) “Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.” Therefore, we must confess and put away pride. If we exalt ourselves, we place ourselves in opposition to God who will, in His grace and for our own good, humble us. But if we humble ourselves, God gives us more grace and exalts us. (LUK14:11) Along with Jesus, Paul is also to be our example of humility. In spite of the great gifts and understanding he had received, Paul saw himself as the “least of the apostles” and the “chief of sinners” (1TI1:15; 1CO15:9) Like Paul, the truly humble will glory in the grace of God and in the cross, not in self-righteousness. (PHI3:3-9)

As we learn to be humble, we discover that the place of the humble is a place of beauty. Humble people are not only more polite and considerate, but they also have stronger self-control as they know what they are doing at all times. A humble person will be free from anger, irritation, bitterness, resentment etc. Humble man recognizes his every failure, therefore depends entirely on the Lord. A humble person focuses on unity and love in the Church, prevents strife, competition, and vain glory. Humility makes people better learners and thinkers. Humble leaders are modest about their success. Humble yourself before God means coming before God in awe and reverence. It’s the positioning of your heart to be open to His Word. God cares for us. He is mighty. He calls us to humble ourselves under Him. There is no better way to live than to walk humbly with our God. Therefore, “*humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up*” (JAM4:10)