

Humility v Pride

Intro

A Rabbi and a New England minister were getting to know one another. Proudly, the minister exclaimed, "One of my ancestors signed the Declaration of Independence."

"I understand your pride," responded the rabbi. "One of my ancestors signed the Ten Commandments."

One of the most proud people in history was Cassius Clay who changed his name to Muhammad Ali when he became a Muslim. He constantly boasted, "I am the greatest."

Muhammad Ali was in his prime, and as he was about to take off on an airplane flight, the stewardess reminded him to fasten his seat belt. He came back brashly, "Superman don't need no seat belt." The stewardess quickly came back, "Superman don't need no airplane, either." Ali fastened his belt.

I. Definition of Pride and Humility

Pride

Pride is inordinate esteem, conceit. The biblical words connote the idea of being lifted up.

Humility

Humility is recognizing and acknowledging my total dependence upon the Lord and seeking His will for every decision.

Humility is acknowledging that achievement results from the investment of others in my life.

Humility is perfect quietness of heart. It is to have no trouble. It is never to be fretted or irritated or sore or disappointed. It is to expect nothing, to wonder at nothing that is done to me. It is to be at rest when nobody praises me and when I am blamed or despised. It is to go in and shut the door and kneel to my Father in secret, and be at peace as in the deep sea of calmness when all around and above is trouble. Andrew Murray (1828-1917)

Humility is to make a right estimate of one's self. Charles Haddon Spurgeon (1834-1892)

Humility is the exhibition of the spirit of Jesus Christ and is the touchstone of saintliness. Oswald Chambers (1874-1917)

Humility is recognizing that God and others are responsible for the achievements in my life. Bill Gothard

II. Biblical Teachings on Pride

A. The origin of pride

Satan – Isa 14:12-14

(Isa 14:12-14 NIV) How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! {13} You said in your heart, "I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. {14} I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High."

B. The cause of the Fall – Gen 3:5

The devil instilled a craving to be as God into Adam and Eve

(Gen 3:5 NIV) "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

C. The result of the Fall was the entire human race was infected with pride – Rom 1:21-23; 5:12, 18-19

(Rom 1:21-23 NIV) For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. {22} Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools {23} and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.

(Rom 5:12 NIV) Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned--

(Rom 5:18-19 NIV) Consequently, just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life for all men. {19} For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

D. The result of pride is condemnation – 1 Tim 3:6-7; 2 Tim 2:26

(1 Tim 3:6-7 NIV) He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. {7} He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.

(2 Tim 2:26 NIV) and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

E. God hates pride – Prov 8:13

(Prov 8:13 NIV) To fear the LORD is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech.

F. God opposes the proud – James 4:6; 1 Peter 5:5

(James 4:6 NIV) But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

(1 Pet 5:5 NIV) 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."

G. Pride causes believers to backslide – Hosea 13:6

Israel became proud and forgot the Lord – Hosea 13:6

(Hosea 13:6 NIV) When I fed them, they were satisfied; when they were satisfied, they became proud; then they forgot me.

(Prov 16:18 NIV) Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.

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

(Prov 29:23 NIV) A man's pride brings him low, but a man of lowly spirit gains honor.

H. Wicked do not seek God because of pride – Ps 10:4

(Psa 10:4 NIV) In his pride the wicked does not seek him; in all his thoughts there is no room for God.

I. Pride is one of the characteristics of the last days – 2 Tim 3:1-5; 2 Kings 19:22

(2 Tim 3:1-5 NIV) But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. {2} People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, {3} without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, {4} treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God-- {5} having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.

(2 Ki 19:22 NIV) Who is it you have insulted and blasphemed? Against whom have you raised your voice and lifted your eyes in pride? Against the Holy One of Israel!

J. God judges the proud – Lev 26:19; Ps 31:23; 94:2; 3:34; 15:25; 16:5; Isa 2:11, 17; 13:11, 19; 23:9; 25:11; 28:3; 43:14; Jer 13:9; 49:16; Ezek 7:24; 28:2; Ezek 30:18; Dan 4:37; 5:20; Amos 6:8; 8:7-9; Zeph 2:10-11; Zec 10:11; Luke 1:51

(Psa 31:23 NIV) Love the LORD, all his saints! The LORD preserves the faithful, but the proud he pays back in full.

(Psa 94:2 NIV) Rise up, O Judge of the earth; pay back to the proud what they deserve.

(Prov 3:34 NIV) He mocks proud mockers but gives grace to the humble.

(Prov 15:25 NIV) The LORD tears down the proud man's house but he keeps the widow's boundaries intact.

(Prov 16:5 NIV) The LORD detests all the proud of heart. Be sure of this: They will not go unpunished.

(Ezek 30:18 NIV) Dark will be the day at Tahpanhes when I break the yoke of Egypt; there her proud strength will come to an end. She will be covered with clouds, and her villages will go into captivity.

(Luke 1:51 NIV) He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.

(Lev 26:19 NIV) I will break down your stubborn pride and make the sky above you like iron and the ground beneath you like bronze.

(Isa 2:11 NIV) The eyes of the arrogant man will be humbled and the pride of men brought low; the LORD alone will be exalted in that day.

(Isa 2:17 NIV) The arrogance of man will be brought low and the pride of men humbled; the LORD alone will be exalted in that day,

(Isa 13:11 NIV) I will punish the world for its evil, the wicked for their sins. I will put an end to the arrogance of the haughty and will humble the pride of the ruthless.

(Isa 13:19 NIV) Babylon, the jewel of kingdoms, the glory of the Babylonians' pride, will be overthrown by God like Sodom and Gomorrah.

(Isa 23:9 NIV) The LORD Almighty planned it, to bring low the pride of all glory and to humble all who are renowned on the earth.

(Isa 25:11 NIV) They will spread out their hands in it, as a swimmer spreads out his hands to swim. God will bring down their pride despite the cleverness of their hands.

(Isa 28:3 NIV) That wreath, the pride of Ephraim's drunkards, will be trampled underfoot.

(Isa 43:14 NIV) This is what the LORD says-- your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: "For your sake I will send to Babylon and bring down as fugitives all the Babylonians, in the ships in which they took pride.

(Jer 13:9 NIV) "This is what the LORD says: 'In the same way I will ruin the pride of Judah and the great pride of Jerusalem.

(Jer 49:16 NIV) The terror you inspire and the pride of your heart have deceived you, you who live in the clefts of the rocks, who occupy the heights of the hill. Though you build your nest as high as the eagle's, from there I will bring you down," declares the LORD.

(Ezek 7:24 NIV) I will bring the most wicked of the nations to take possession of their houses; I will put an end to the pride of the mighty, and their sanctuaries will be desecrated.

(Ezek 28:2 NIV) "Son of man, say to the ruler of Tyre, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: "In the pride of your heart you say, "I am a god; I sit on the throne of a god in the heart of the seas." But you are a man and not a god, though you think you are as wise as a god.

(Ezek 32:12 NIV) I will cause your hordes to fall by the swords of mighty men-- the most ruthless of all nations. They will shatter the pride of Egypt, and all her hordes will be overthrown.

(Dan 4:37 NIV) Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and exalt and glorify the King of heaven, because everything he does is right and all his ways are just. And those who walk in pride he is able to humble.

(Dan 5:20 NIV) But when his heart became arrogant and hardened with pride, he was deposed from his royal throne and stripped of his glory.

(Amos 6:8 NIV) The Sovereign LORD has sworn by himself--the LORD God Almighty declares: "I abhor the pride of Jacob and detest his fortresses; I will deliver up the city and everything in it."

(Amos 8:7-9 NIV) The LORD has sworn by the Pride of Jacob: "I will never forget anything they have done. {8} "Will not the land tremble for this, and all who live in it mourn? The whole land will rise like the Nile; it will be stirred up and then sink like the river of Egypt. {9} "In that day," declares the Sovereign LORD, "I will make the sun go down at noon and darken the earth in broad daylight. (Zep 2:10-11 NIV) This is what they will get in return for their pride, for insulting and mocking the people of the LORD Almighty. {11} The LORD will be awesome to them when he destroys all the gods of the land. The nations on every shore will worship him, every one in its own land.

(Zec 10:11 NIV) They will pass through the sea of trouble; the surging sea will be subdued and all the depths of the Nile will dry up. Assyria's pride will be brought down and Egypt's scepter will pass away.

K. Legitimate pride – Rom 15:17; 1 Cor 15:31; 2 Cor 1:14; 5:12; 7:4, 14; Phil 2:16; Gal 6:4; James 1:9-10

Paul speaks of a positive kind of pride among Christians. He was proud of the churches he had founded and wanted them to be proud of him (Rom 15:17; 1 Cor 15:31; 2 Cor 1:14; 5:12; 7:4, 14; Phil 2:16).

(Rom 15:17 NIV) **Therefore I glory in Christ Jesus in my service to God.**

(1 Cor 15:31 NIV) I die every day--I mean that, brothers--just as surely as **I glory over you in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

(2 Cor 1:14 NIV) as you have understood us in part, you will come to understand fully **that you can boast of us just as we will boast of you in the day of the Lord Jesus.**

(2 Cor 5:12 NIV) We are not trying to commend ourselves to you again, but are giving you an opportunity to take pride in us, so that you can answer those who take pride in what is seen rather than in what is in the heart.

(2 Cor 7:4 NIV) **I have great confidence in you; I take great pride in you. I am greatly encouraged; in all our troubles my joy knows no bounds.**

(2 Cor 8:24 NIV) Therefore show these men the proof of your love and the reason for our pride in you, so that the churches can see it.

(Gal 6:4 NIV) Each one should test his own actions. Then he can take pride in himself, without comparing himself to somebody else,

(James 1:9 NIV) The brother in humble circumstances ought to take pride in his high position.

(James 1:10 NIV) But the one who is rich should take pride in his low position, because he will pass away like a wild flower.

However Paul would take no personal credit in his success, rather attributing it to God's gifts and grace (Rom 15:15-19; 2 Cor 1:12; 5:11-15). Boasting in Christ was the same as giving thanks to God – 2 Thess 1:3-4.

(2 Cor 1:12 NIV) Now this is our boast: Our conscience testifies that we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially in our relations with you, in the holiness and sincerity that are from God. We have done so not according to worldly wisdom but according to God's grace.

(2 Th 1:3-4 NIV) We ought always to thank God for you, brothers, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love every one of you has for each other is increasing. {4} Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring.

Illustration – In a small town that was dwindling in population, the Baptist and the Christian churches tried to merge. All the members of both churches agreed, except one old-timer.

“No,” he said, as he shook his head.

“Why, sir?” he was asked.

“Well, my mother and father were Baptists, my grandparents were Baptists, all my people were Baptists and nobody is going to make a Christian out of me now!”

L. General teachings on pride – 2 Chron 32:25; Job 40:11-12; 41:34; Ps 31:23; 31:18, 23; 40:4; 73:6; 101:5; 123:4; 138:6; 140:7-8; Prov 3:34; 11:2; 13:10; 16:18-19; 18:12; 21:4, 24; 29:23; Ezek 28:5, 17; Rom 12:16; 1 Cor 5:2; 13:4; Eccl 7:8

(2 Chr 32:25 NIV) But Hezekiah's heart was proud and he did not respond to the kindness shown him; therefore the Lord's wrath was on him and on Judah and Jerusalem.

(Job 40:11 NIV) Unleash the fury of your wrath, look at every proud man and bring him low,

(Job 40:12 NIV) look at every proud man and humble him, crush the wicked where they stand.

(Job 41:34 NIV) He looks down on all that are haughty; he is king over all that are proud."

(Psa 31:18 NIV) Let their lying lips be silenced, for with pride and contempt they speak arrogantly against the righteous.

(Psa 31:23 NIV) Love the LORD, all his saints! The LORD preserves the faithful, but the proud he pays back in full.

(Psa 40:4 NIV) Blessed is the man who makes the LORD his trust, who does not look to the proud, to those who turn aside to false gods.

(Psa 73:6 NIV) Therefore pride is their necklace; they clothe themselves with violence.

(Psa 101:5 NIV) Whoever slanders his neighbor in secret, him will I put to silence; whoever has haughty eyes and a proud heart, him will I not endure.

(Psa 123:4 NIV) We have endured much ridicule from the proud, much contempt from the arrogant.

(Psa 138:6 NIV) Though the LORD is on high, he looks upon the lowly, but the proud he knows from afar.

(Psa 140:7-8 NIV) O Sovereign LORD, my strong deliverer, who shields my head in the day of battle-- {8} do not grant the wicked their desires, O LORD; do not let their plans succeed, or they will become proud. *Selah*

(Prov 3:34 NIV) He mocks proud mockers but gives grace to the humble.

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

(Prov 13:10 NIV) Pride only breeds quarrels, but wisdom is found in those who take advice.

(Prov 16:18 NIV) Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.

(Prov 16:19 NIV) Better to be lowly in spirit and among the oppressed than to share plunder with the proud.

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

(Prov 21:4 NIV) Haughty eyes and a proud heart, the lamp of the wicked, are sin!

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

(Prov 29:23 NIV) A man's pride brings him low, but a man of lowly spirit gains honor.

(Eccl 7:8 NIV) The end of a matter is better than its beginning, and patience is better than pride.

(Ezek 28:5 NIV) By your great skill in trading you have increased your wealth, and because of your wealth your heart has grown proud.

(Ezek 28:17 NIV) Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So I threw you to the earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings.

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

(1 Cor 5:2 NIV) And you are proud! Shouldn't you rather have been filled with grief and have put out of your fellowship the man who did this?

(1 Cor 13:4 NIV) Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.

III. Evidences of Pride

A. Boastful spirit – Rom 1:28-32

(Rom 1:28-32 NIV) Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done. {29} They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, {30} slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; {31} they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless. {32} Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.

Illustration: Mongolian fable of the boastful frog

Two geese were about to start southward on their annual autumn migration, when they were entreated by a frog to take him with them. On the geese expressing their willingness to do so if a means of conveyance could be devised, the frog produced a long stalk of

grass, got the two geese to take it one by each end, while he clung to it by his mouth in the middle. In this manner the three were making their journey when they were noticed from below by some men.

The men loudly expressed their admiration for the device and wondered who had been clever enough to discover it. Whereupon the vainglorious frog opened his mouth to say, "It was I," lost his hold, fell to the earth, and was dashed to pieces.

Moral: When you have a good thing going, keep your mouth shut!

B. Critical Spirit – Ps 101:5; 123:4; Prov 13:10; 16:18

(Psa 101:5 NIV) Whoever slanders his neighbor in secret, him will I put to silence; whoever has haughty eyes and a proud heart, him will I not endure.

(Psa 123:4 NIV) We have endured much ridicule from the proud, much contempt from the arrogant.

(Prov 13:10 NIV) Pride only breeds quarrels, but wisdom is found in those who take advice.

(Prov 16:18 NIV) Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.

C. Ingratitude – Ps 31:23; 1 Cor 13:4

(Psa 31:23 NIV) Love the LORD, all his saints! The LORD preserves the faithful, but the proud he pays back in full.

Pride kills thanksgiving, but a humble mind is the soil out of which thanks naturally grows. A proud man is seldom a grateful man, for he never thinks he gets as much as he deserves. Henry Ward Beecher (1813-1887)

(1 Cor 13:4 NIV) Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.

IV. Dealing with Pride

A. Confess it as sin – Prov 21:4; 1 John 1:9

(Prov 21:4 NIV) Haughty eyes and a proud heart, the lamp of the wicked, are sin!

(1 John 1:9 NIV) If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

B. Submit to God's sovereignty – Gal 6:3; Jer 29:11; 1 Cor 12:11

We seem to think the kingdom of God will not come unless we personally bring it about.

(Gal 6:3 NIV) If anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

(1 Cor 12:11 NIV) All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.

C. Accept God's grace – Eph 2:8-9

Be not proud of race, face, place, or grace. Charles Haddon Spurgeon (1834-1892)

Pride will send many to hell.

(Prov 27:1 KJV) Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.

(Eph 2:8-9 KJV) For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: {9} Not of works, lest any man should boast.

V. God's Basic Principles for Spiritual Success:

A. Get rid of a sinful habit.

B. Replace it with a righteous habit.

(Eph 4:30-32 NIV) And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. {31} Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. {32} Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

The Christian must get rid of pride and replace it with humility.

Humility

Two wellborn and blueblood dogs were walking daintily along the street with their noses held high in the air. Along came a big alley dog of the "Heinz 57 Varieties" type. Embarrassed at being in the company of such a no-account dog, one of the lady dogs said, "We must go. My name is Miji, spelled M-I-J-I." The other blueblood said, "My name is Miki, spelled M-I-K-I." The low-class alley dog put his nose up in the air also and said, "My name is Fido, spelled P-H- Y-D-E-A-U-X."

How to be Perfectly Miserable

1. Think about yourself.
2. Talk about yourself.
3. Use the personal pronoun "I" as often as possible in your conversation.
4. Mirror yourself continually in the opinion of others.
5. Listen greedily to what people say about you.
6. Insist on consideration and respect.
7. Demand agreement with your own views on everything.
8. Sulk if people are not grateful to you for favors shown them.
9. Never forget a service you may have rendered.
10. Expect to be appreciated.
11. Be suspicious.
12. Be sensitive to slights.
13. Be jealous and envious.
14. Never forget a criticism.
15. Trust nobody but yourself.

VI. Biblical Teachings on Humility

A. Examples of humble people

1. Moses the humblest man – Num 12:3

(Num 12:3 NIV) (Now Moses was a very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth.)

2. Daniel – Dan 10:12

(Dan 10:12 NIV) Then he continued, "Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them.

3. Ezra humbles himself and fasts – Ezra 8:21

(Ezra 8:21 NIV) There, by the Ahava Canal, I proclaimed a fast, so that we might humble ourselves before our God and ask him for a safe journey for us and our children, with all our possessions.

4. Jesus – Matt 11:28-30;

(Mat 11:28-30 NIV) "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. {29} Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. {30} For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Because Christ Jesus came to the world clothed in humility, he will always be found among those who are clothed with humility. He will be found among the humble people. A. W. Tozer (1897-1963)

Illustration - Jesus washing the disciples' feet – John 13:1-17

5. Mary – Luke 1:46-49

(Luke 1:46-49 NIV) And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord {47} and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, {48} for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, {49} for the Mighty One has done great things for me-- holy is his name.

John the Baptist – Matt 11:11

(Mat 11:11 NIV) I tell you the truth: Among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Paul – Acts 20:19

(Acts 20:19 NIV) I served the Lord with great humility and with tears, although I was severely tested by the plots of the Jews.

Israel led through wilderness to humble them – Deut 8:2

(Deu 8:2 NIV) Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the desert these forty years, to humble you and to test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands.

Manna given to humble Israel – Deut 8:16

(Deu 8:16 NIV) He gave you manna to eat in the desert, something your fathers had never known, to humble and to test you so that in the end it might go well with you.

B. God saves the humble – 2 Sam 22:28; Ps 18:27; 25:9

(2 Sam 22:28 NIV) You save the humble, but your eyes are on the haughty to bring them low.

(Psa 18:27 NIV) You save the humble but bring low those whose eyes are haughty.

C. God guides the humble – Ps 25:9

(Psa 25:9 NIV) He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way.

D. God sustains the humble – Ps 147:6

(Psa 147:6 NIV) The LORD sustains the humble but casts the wicked to the ground.

E. God crowns the humble with salvation – Ps 149:4

(Psa 149:4 NIV) For the LORD takes delight in his people; he crowns the humble with salvation.

F. God esteems the humble – Isa 66:2

(Isa 66:2 NIV) 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.

G. God exalts the humble – Luke 1:52

(Luke 1:52 NIV) He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble.

H. Land healed when people humble themselves – 2 Chron 7:14

(2 Chr 7:14 NIV) if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

I. Humble will rejoice – Isa 29:19

(Isa 29:19 NIV) Once more the humble will rejoice in the LORD; the needy will rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.

J. Humble trust in the name of the Lord – Zeph 3:12

(Zep 3:12 NIV) But I will leave within you the meek and humble, who trust in the name of the LORD.

K. Command to humble yourself – Eph 4:2; James 4:10; 1 Peter 3:8; 5:5-6; Rom 12:16

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

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

(1 Pet 3:8 NIV) Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble.

(1 Pet 5:5 NIV) 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."

(1 Pet 5:6 NIV) Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.

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

L. Humble yourself before your neighbor – Prov 6:1-5

(Prov 6:1-5 NIV) My son, if you have put up security for your neighbor, if you have struck hands in pledge for another, {2} if you have been trapped by what you said, ensnared by the words of your mouth, {3} then do this, my son, to free yourself, since you have fallen into your neighbor's hands: Go and humble yourself; press your plea with your neighbor! {4} Allow no sleep to your eyes, no slumber to your eyelids. {5} Free yourself, like a gazelle from the hand of the hunter, like a bird from the snare of the fowler.

M. Seek humility – Zeph 2:3

(Zep 2:3 NIV) **Seek the LORD, all you humble of the land, you who do what he commands. Seek righteousness, seek humility;** perhaps you will be sheltered on the day of the Lord's anger.

“Most of us must be content to be as though we had not been, **to be found in the register of God, not in the record of man.**” Sir Thomas Browne (1605-1682)

N. Humility comes before honor – Prov. 15:33; 18:12; 22:4

(Prov 15:33 NIV) The fear of the LORD teaches a man wisdom, and humility comes before honor.

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

(Prov 22:4 NIV) Humility and the fear of the LORD bring wealth and honor and life.

O. False humility – Col 2:16-18, 23

(Col 2:16-18 NIV) Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. {17} These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ. {18} Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you for the prize. Such a person goes into great detail about what he has seen, and his unspiritual mind puffs him up with idle notions.

(Col 2:23 NIV) Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.

P. Proud will be humbled – Job 40:11-13; Isa 23:9; Dan 4:37

(Job 40:11-13 NIV) Unleash the fury of your wrath, look at every proud man and bring him low, {12} look at every proud man and humble him, crush the wicked where they stand. {13} Bury them all in the dust together; shroud their faces in the grave.

(Isa 23:9 NIV) The LORD Almighty planned it, to bring low the pride of all glory and to humble all who are renowned on the earth.

(Dan 4:37 NIV) Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and exalt and glorify the King of heaven, because everything he does is right and all his ways are just. And those who walk in pride he is able to humble.

Q. Wicked will be humbled – Isa 2:12; 13:11

(Isa 13:11 NIV) I will punish the world for its evil, the wicked for their sins. I will put an end to the arrogance of the haughty and will humble the pride of the ruthless.

(Isa 2:12 NIV) The LORD Almighty has a day in store for all the proud and lofty, for all that is exalted (and they will be humbled),

R. Some will refused to humble themselves – 2 Chron 33:23; 36:11-12

(2 Chr 33:23 NIV) But unlike his father Manasseh, he did not humble himself before the LORD; Amon increased his guilt.

(2 Chr 36:11-12 NIV) Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem eleven years. {12} He did evil in the eyes of the LORD his God and did not humble himself before Jeremiah the prophet, who spoke the word of the LORD.

VII. Develop Humility – Phil 2:1-11

A. By handling criticism

Being humble involves the willingness to be reckoned a failure in everyone's sight but God's.
Roy M. Pearson (1914-

If you serve only for the approval of men, you will lose the approval of God.

B. By handling praise

It is no great thing to be humble when you are brought low; but to be humble when you are praised is a great and rare attainment. Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1153)

C. By esteeming others – Phil 2:3

(Phil 2:3 NIV) Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.

D. By following Jesus – Phil 2:1-11

(Phil 2:1-11 NIV) If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, {2} then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. {3} Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. {4} Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. {5} Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: {6} Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, {7} but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. {8} And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross! {9} Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, {10} that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, {11} and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.