

Pride and Humility

1.0 Introduction

The Bible has a lot to tell us about both pride and humility. An understanding of pride is essential for our Christian walk; we should remember that pride was the original sin that brought about the fall of Satan, and that it was pride that was behind the fall of man as well. Understanding the damage pride has brought into God's creation should help us understand the seriousness of pride and give us some insight regarding what to avoid and what to embrace in our lives. The godly attitude that we see in Scripture as the substitute of pride is humility — Jesus is our living example of humility.

2.0 Scope and Purpose

This study consists of an overview of what pride and humility are, both in the eyes of the world and in the eyes of God. In reviewing passages that address pride or humility, we'll seek for God's Word to have its intended effect in our lives, convicting us to put off any attitudes in ourselves that we might learn are not honoring to God, and to guide us in replacing such attitudes with the humility that we can practice only in Christ. We will not look at all the aspects of pride or humility, but we'll look at common ways in which pride is manifested in our lives, and at ways in which we can adopt humble attitudes in place of prideful ones. We will also look at ways to motivate ourselves to grow in humility.

3.0 Pride

It is important for us to know how God feels about our pride. In Proverbs 16:5, He tells us in no uncertain terms that He is not pleased by our pride, in fact, pride is an abomination to God; pride is an object of God's hatred.

Proverbs 16:5ⁱ

Everyone who is **proud** in heart is an abomination to the LORD;
Assuredly, he will not be unpunished.

This alone is sufficient reason to motivate us to want to understand what pride is, lest we practice something that God so hates. So, what is pride?

3.1 Definitions of Pride

Here are some of the ways in which the world defines pride:

Pride (noun)ⁱⁱ

1. A high opinion of one's own worth or possessions.
Example: "Pride in our city should make us help to keep it clean."
2. Pleasure or satisfaction in something concerned with oneself.
Example: "To take pride in a hard job well done."
3. Something that a person is proud of.
Example: "Her youngest child is her great pride."
4. Too high an opinion of oneself; conceit.
Example: "Pride goes before a fall." (synonymous with vanity, or arrogance).
5. An acting as if better than others; scorn of others; haughtiness.

Pride (adjective)

1. Thinking well of oneself.

Example: "The vile are only vain; the great are proud." (Byron)

2. Feeling or showing great pleasure or satisfaction.

Example: "I am proud to call him my friend."

3. Having a becoming sense of what is due oneself, or one's position or character.

Example: "The hungry man was too proud to beg for food."

4. Thinking too well of oneself; haughty; arrogant.

Example: "A proud, insolent man."

5. Very pleasing to one's feelings or one's pride; very honorable, creditable, or gratifying.

Example: "It was a proud moment for my cousin when he shook hands with the President."

Pride (noun)ⁱⁱⁱ

1. A haughty attitude shown by people who believe, often unjustifiably, that they are better than others

2. The correct level of respect for the importance and value of your personal character, life, efforts, or achievements

3. The happy, satisfied feeling somebody experiences when having or achieving something special that other people admire

4. Something that somebody feels especially pleased and satisfied to own or to have achieved

Pride (verb)

To obtain personal satisfaction and pleasure from a particular source, especially something accomplished or a quality possessed

Proud (adjective)

1. Feeling pleased and satisfied, for example, about having done something or about owning something

2. Characterized by feelings of pride

3. Having a proper amount of self-respect

4. Having an exaggerated opinion of personal worth or abilities

Pride (noun)^{iv}

1. An undue sense of one's own superiority; arrogance; conceit.

2. A proper sense of personal dignity and worth.

3. That of which one is justly proud.

4. The most excellent part of anything; the nation's *pride*.

— Syn. (noun) 1. *Pride* manifests itself in disdain or haughtiness toward others; *self-esteem*, in more deference to one's opinions than others grant. *Conceit* is an exaggerated opinion of one's ability or worth. *Vanity* is seen in an excessive desire for admiration, while *vainglory* points to undue boasting about one's accomplishments.

Proud (adjective)

1. Actuated by, possessing, or manifesting pride; arrogant; also, self-respecting.
2. Sensible of honor and personal elation: generally followed by *of* or by a verb in the infinitive.

Pride refers to a strong sense of self-respect, a refusal to be humiliated as well as joy in the accomplishments of oneself or a person, group, or object that one identifies with.^v

3.2 The World's View of Pride

The world sees and treats pride as a positive quality that everyone must or should have. In the work force, for example, it is those who take *pride* in their work who are the valued employees — it is assumed that their pride will motivate them to do a good job. In our educational systems children are encouraged to have *self-esteem*, or in other words, to have confidence (pride) in themselves and in their own merit as individuals — to think well of themselves at all costs.

Pride in ones opinions and affiliations are often valued and encouraged. Just think of how many bumper stickers you've seen that say "Proud to work union," or even, "Proud to be an American."

It seems that as people think well of their abilities, they do so less and less critically. This habit-forming exercise helps people feel good about themselves, which, in turn, only increases their already high opinions of themselves. The result is that people may *feel* good about themselves, and think highly of themselves; but the only real reason they may do so is that they are not comparing themselves to the Holy and Perfect God who created them, instead they measure themselves up to their own flexible standards. Pride effectively makes man the standard barer by which to judge himself and others.

3.3 The Word's View of Pride

It is easy to see where pride can creep into our lives passing as something good, as a virtue even. Yet, we must not forget that pride was at the root of the first act of disobedience to God by His creation; and pride was at the root of man's first sin as well.

In the passages that relate the fall of Satan we see that his sin was pride.

Isaiah 14:12-14

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.'

Ezekiel 28:11-19

11 Again the word of the LORD came to me saying,

12 "Son of man, take up a lamentation over the king of Tyre, and say to him,
'Thus says the Lord GOD,

You had the seal of perfection,
Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

13 "You were in Eden, the garden of God;
Every precious stone was your covering:
The ruby, the topaz, and the diamond;
The beryl, the onyx, and the jasper;
The lapis lazuli, the turquoise, and the emerald;
And the gold, the workmanship of your settings and sockets,
Was in you.

On the day that you were created
They were prepared.

14 "You were the anointed cherub who covers,
And I placed you *there*.

You were on the holy mountain of God;
You walked in the midst of the stones of fire.

15 "You were blameless in your ways
From the day you were created,
Until unrighteousness was found in you.

16 "By the abundance of your trade
You were internally filled with violence,
And you sinned;
Therefore I have cast you as profane
From the mountain of God.

And I have destroyed you,
O covering cherub,
From the midst of the stones of fire.

17 "Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty;
You corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor.

I cast you to the ground;
I put you before kings,
That they may see you.

18 "By the multitude of your iniquities,
In the unrighteousness of your trade,
You profaned your sanctuaries.
Therefore I have brought fire from the midst of you;

It has consumed you,
And I have turned you to ashes on the earth
In the eyes of all who see you.

19 “All who know you among the peoples
Are appalled at you;
You have become terrified,
And you will be no more.”””

Satan dared to put himself above the Most High; in other words, Satan put his opinion, his will, his preferences above God’s — such way of thinking is pride.

Genesis 3:1-6

1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, “Indeed, has God said, ‘You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?’”

2 And the woman said to the serpent, “From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat;

3 but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat from it or touch it, lest you die.’”

4 And the serpent said to the woman, “You surely shall not die!

5 “For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

6 When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make *one* wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.

In Eve’s opinion she believed what she saw, and she saw that the fruit God had forbidden them to eat “was good for food.” In effect, Eve trusted her own senses, her perceptions and opinions above God’s. She saw that the fruit was appetizing, and not only for nourishment, but also to make her wise, as the serpent had told her. Eve chose to disbelieve God. In her judgment, the serpent’s argument seemed more valid than God’s Word. Adam did not correct his wife’s error, but agreed and approved with her assessment, which he demonstrated by eating of the fruit himself.

The Word of God does give us the only valuable perspective of pride, and it often does so in light of humility. Consider the following passages:

Proverbs 11:2

When **pride** comes, then comes dishonor,
But with the **humble** is wisdom.

Proverbs 16:19

It is better to be of a **humble** spirit with the lowly,
Than to divide the spoil with the **proud**.

Proverbs 29:23

A man’s **pride** will bring him low,
But a **humble** spirit will obtain honor.

Isaiah 2:17

And the **pride** of man will be **humbled**,

And the loftiness of men will be abased,
And the LORD alone will be exalted in that day.

Job 40:12

“Look on everyone who is **proud**, *and* **humble** him;
And tread down the wicked where they stand.

James 4:6

But He gives a greater grace. Therefore *it* says, “GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE **PROUD**, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE **HUMBLE**.”

1 Peter 5:5

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**.

Psalm 75:4

“I said to the boastful, ‘Do not **boast**,’
And to the wicked, ‘Do not lift up the horn;

Psalm 138:6

For though the LORD is exalted,
Yet He regards the **lowly**;
But the haughty He knows from afar.

Proverbs 16:5

Everyone who is **proud** in heart is an abomination to the LORD;
Assuredly, he will not be unpunished.

Proverbs 8:13

“The fear of the LORD is to hate evil;
Pride and arrogance and the evil way,
And the perverted mouth, I hate.

Hosea 13:6

As *they had* their pasture, they became satisfied,
And being satisfied, their heart became **proud**;
Therefore, they forgot Me.

1 Corinthians 1:25-31

25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

26 For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble;

27 but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong,
 28 and the base things of the world and the despised, God has chosen, the things that are not, that He might nullify the things that are,
 29 that no man should **boast** before God.
 30 But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption,
 31 that, just as it is written, “LET HIM WHO **BOASTS**, **BOAST IN THE LORD.**”

1 Corinthians 4:7

For who regards you as superior? And what do you have that you did not receive? But if you did receive it, why do you **boast** as if you had not received it?

James 4:16

But as it is, you **boast** in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil.

From these passages we learn that according to God:

- Pride dishonors His creation, that’s not what He made us for. He did not create us to have self-esteem! (Proverbs 11:2)
- Proud people are not the ones we should want to be associated with. (Proverbs 16:19)
- Pride eventually will be the demise of man. (Proverbs 29:23)
- God will eventually humble, or humiliate, the proud. (Job 40:12; Isaiah 2:17)
- In no uncertain terms, Scripture tells us that God is opposed to the proud (James 4:6), but gives grace to those who are not (James 4:6; 1 Peter 5:5; Psalm 138:6).
- Scripture clearly tells us not to boast as well. (Psalm 75:4)
- Pride is an abomination to the Lord. (Proverbs 16:5) An abomination is something that greatly offends God!
- Scripture’s voice of wisdom is to respect or fear God, we do so by hating that which is evil; but before we can hate evil we need to recognize it. Scripture clearly tells us that pride is evil. Therefore, recognizing this is honoring to God. (Proverbs 8:13)
- Pride will cause us to forget God. It is when we think we are self sufficient, or wealthy, or healthy (etc.) that we see less and less what great need for God we really have. The more self-esteem we have the less we’ll recognize our enormous need for God’s grace. (Hosea 13:6)
- We have nothing to be proud about. Not even our salvation. We have nothing that God has not graciously given to us, so we have no room to be proud, only thankful. We are to be humbled and flattered at the immense kindness our Lord has shown toward us. (1 Corinthians 1:25-31; 4:7)
- The bottom line: all boasting, in actions, words and thoughts; that stems from pride is evil! (James 4:16)

Pride involves thinking more about oneself, as well as thinking more highly of oneself. However, merely spending less time thinking about ourselves does not indicate that we are reducing our pride. We must at the same time and with the same effort think of others as “more important” (cf. Philippians 2:3) than ourselves. How might our behavior towards others change when we actually believe and treat others as more important than ourselves.

3.3.1 Defining Pride from Scripture^{vi vii}

The words used for “pride” in the Greek New Testament and their meanings:

- ALAZONIA – noun form, usually translated “pride,” also meaning “vainglory.”
- HUPEREPHANIA – noun form, usually translated as “pride,” but also meaning “haughty” and “arrogance.”
- TUPHOO – verb form, usually translated as “lifted up with pride,” more literally meaning “swollen with pride.”

The words used for “proud” in the Greek New Testament and their meanings:

- HUPEREPHANOS – signifies showing oneself above others or as pre-eminent. From “*huper*” meaning “above,” and “*phainomai*” meaning to appear or to be manifest. It is always used in Scripture in the bad sense of arrogant, disdainful or proud.

The words used for “boast” in the Greek New Testament and their meanings:

- KAUCHAOMAI – meaning “boast,” “boast about,” “take pride in;” but also “rejoice,” or “be glad.”
- MEGALAUCEO – from “*megala*” meaning “great things,” and “*auceo*” meaning “to lift up the neck;” hence, it is usually translated “to boast.” It indicates any kind of haughty speech which stirs up strife or provokes others.
- ALAZON – a boaster, or a boastful person. Primarily signifies a wanderer about the country (“*ale*” means “wandering”), so it is understood as an impostor.
- ALAZONEIA – the practice of an *alazon*, denotes quackery; hence, arrogant display, or boastings.

3.3.2 Positive References of Pride in Scripture

To have a better understanding of pride we need to take a look at some of the biblical passages in which “pride” or “prideful” behavior, like boasting, are pictured in a positive light. We need to know when pride is not sinful for us.

2 Corinthians 9:1-4

- 1 For it is superfluous for me to write to you about this ministry to the saints;
- 2 for I know your readiness, of which I **boast** about you to the Macedonians, *namely*, that Achaia has been prepared since last year, and your zeal has stirred up most of them.

3 But I have sent the brethren, that our **boasting** about you may not be made empty in this case, that, as I was saying, you may be prepared;
4 lest if any Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared, we (not to speak of you) should be put to shame by this confidence.

2 Corinthians 1:12, 14

12 For our **proud** confidence is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in holiness and godly sincerity, not in fleshly wisdom but in the grace of God, we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially toward you.

14 just as you also partially did understand us, that we are your reason to be **proud** as you also are ours, in the day of our Lord Jesus.

2 Corinthians 5:12

We are not again commending ourselves to you but *are* giving you an occasion to be **proud** of us, that you may have *an answer* for those who take **pride** in appearance, and not in heart.

Philippians 1:26

so that your **proud** confidence in me may abound in Christ Jesus through my coming to you again.

Psalms 20:7

Some **boast** in chariots, and some in horses;
But we will **boast** in the name of the LORD, our God.

Psalms 34:2

My soul shall make its **boast** in the LORD;
The **humble** shall hear it and rejoice.

Jeremiah 9:23-24

23 Thus says the LORD, "Let not a wise man **boast** of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man **boast** of his might, let not a rich man **boast** of his riches;
24 but let him who **boasts boast** of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD who exercises lovingkindness, justice, and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things," declares the LORD.

2 Corinthians 10:17-18

17 But HE WHO **BOASTS**, LET HIM BOAST IN THE LORD.
18 For not he who commends himself is approved, but whom the Lord commends.

1 Corinthians 9:14-17

14 So also the Lord directed those who proclaim the gospel to get their living from the gospel.

15 But I have used none of these things. And I am not writing these things that it may be done so in my case; for it would be better for me to die than have any man make my **boast** an empty one.

16 For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to **boast** of, for I am under compulsion; for woe is me if I do not preach the gospel.

17 For if I do this voluntarily, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have a stewardship entrusted to me.

- Paul boasted about God’s preparation of the Corinthians for ministry. (2 Corinthians 9:1-4)
- Paul was proud that through God’s grace he had been the Lord’s tool in delivering God’s message to the Corinthians. (2 Corinthians 1:12)
- Paul was proud of the work God had done in the Corinthians, and encouraged them to take pride on the work God had done in him (2 Corinthians 1:14; 2 Corinthians 5:12)
- Paul approved of the Philippians “proud confidence” in the work Christ was doing through him. (Philippians 1:26)
- The world takes pride on material possessions, but believers take pride in spiritual blessings — in the work that God does. (Psalm 20:7; Jeremiah 9:23-24)
- All that believers have to boast about are the Lord’s blessings. (Psalm 34:2)
- To the Corinthians Paul boasted of the evangelistic work God had provided for him to do. (1 Corinthians 9:14-17)
- We can only take pride or boast “in the Lord” — that is, in the work He has done, is doing, and will do in our lives and in the world. (2 Corinthians 10:17)

3.3.3 The Pride To Put Off

Many of the sins we are commonly guilty of are rooted in our pride, and these sins are manifestations of our pride. In this section we’ll look at a list of such sins, which often stem from our pride and that we often struggle with, sins we need to recognize as sins and find ways to put them off.^{viii} It is important to note, that pride is not the source of all sins! The list of sins we’ll look at is intended to give us something to think of, examples of ways in which pride can manifest itself in our lives; and if pride is the sin we’re struggling with hopefully this study will help us put pride off.

When does pride manifest itself in our lives?

1. *When we complain* — When we complain we are showing our dissatisfaction and lack of contentment with a particular situation we may find ourselves in. If we think about this, what we are effectively doing when we complain is judging God for what He has done (or not done) that we don’t like or approve of. If we think our situation should be better than it is, we are in fact saying that we deserve better than we have, and since God is sovereign and in control of all

things in our lives, we are effectively accusing God of doing something wrong, we are in effect saying we know better than God.

Numbers 14:1-4

1 Then all the congregation lifted up their voices and cried, and the people wept that night.

2 And all the sons of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron; and the whole congregation said to them, “Would that we had died in the land of Egypt! Or would that we had died in this wilderness!

3 “And why is the LORD bringing us into this land, to fall by the sword? Our wives and our little ones will become plunder; would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?”

4 So they said to one another, “Let us appoint a leader and return to Egypt.”

Romans 9:20

On the contrary, who are you, O man, who answers back to God? The thing molded will not say to the molder, “Why did you make me like this,” will it?

Examples:

- “Why has God not given me a wife/husband/son/daughter?”
- “Why did God give me this wife/husband/son/daughter/father/mother?”
- “Why did God take my wife/husband/son/daughter/father/mother?”

2. When we lack gratitude – When we fail to recognize that all we have is by God’s grace and not by any merit of our own. If we fail to give thanks for what we have we are effectively thinking either that we deserve the good things we have because of hard work or because our high personal value (a.k.a. – self-esteem); or we are thinking that we deserve better than what we have, and that the reason we don’t have what we deserve to have is not due to our lack of effort or merit, but to external unfairness done to us. Lack of gratitude is also evidenced in our complaining, in our criticism of others, or in our general discontent.

Romans 1:21-23

21 For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God, or give thanks; but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

22 Professing to be wise, they became fools,

23 and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.

Hebrews 12:28

Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe;

2 Chronicles 32:25

But Hezekiah gave no return for the benefit he received, because his heart was proud; therefore wrath came on him and on Judah and Jerusalem.

Examples:

- Not giving thanks for living in the AV!
- Being proud, instead of thankful, of living in the US.
- Not being thankful when we are not selected, or don't qualify for a position/job we've applied for.

3. *When we get angry*^{ix} – When we get angry we say rude things to others, for whatever reason, whether there is a provocation or not. When angry we withdraw, we pout, or we may become frustrated as well. In each of these situations we become emotionally upset because we are not getting the things we want, the way we want them or when we want them. People often become angry when they believe their rights have been violated; when they believe they have not gotten what they believe they deserve. Quite possibly most, if not all, of the times we get angry, this anger is rooted in our pride, in our thinking we deserve better than what we're getting.

James 4:1

What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members?

Proverbs 13:1

A wise son *accepts his* father's discipline,
But a scoffer does not listen to rebuke.

Matthew 20:1-16

1 “For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard.

2 “And when he had agreed with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard.

3 “And he went out about the third hour and saw others standing idle in the market place;

4 and to those he said, ‘You too go into the vineyard, and whatever is right I will give you.’ And *so* they went.

5 “Again he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour, and did the same thing.

6 “And about the eleventh *hour* he went out, and found others standing; and he said to them, ‘Why have you been standing here idle all day long?’

7 “They said to him, ‘Because no one hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You too go into the vineyard.’

8 “And when evening had come, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last *group* to the first.’

9 “And when those *hired* about the eleventh hour came, each one received a denarius.

10 “And when those *hired* first came, they thought that they would receive more; and they also received each one a denarius.

11 “And when they received it, they grumbled at the landowner,

12 saying, ‘These last men have worked *only* one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden and the scorching heat of the day.’

13 “But he answered and said to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius?’

14 ‘Take what is yours and go your way, but I wish to give to this last man the same as to you.

15 ‘Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with what is my own? Or is your eye envious because I am generous?’

16 “Thus the last shall be first, and the first last.”

Examples:

- Some people get angry that their “right” to carry a gun could be revoked!
- Some people get angry that their “right” to smoke could be revoked!
- Sometimes we get angry that someone cut in front of us on the line at the grocery store.
- We use foul language, someone points out that sin to us, and we get upset.
- We get angry because we are passed up for a promotion at work.
- We get angry because people make fun of us.

4. *When we consider ourselves as better than others* — Sometimes we do this blatantly, but sometimes we may not even be aware we are thinking this way. Sometimes we may outright think that we are better than someone else, for any number of reason — if we have more or less education, if we have a blue or a white collar job, if we live a more moral life, if we serve more at church, etc. Sometimes this aspect of pride manifests itself more subtly in our lives. We can be unaware that we have an inflated view of ourselves, of our importance, of our gifts, our abilities, our possessions, etc. Such a view of ourselves may keep us from being satisfied when we don’t receive the service, attention, respect, deference we believe we deserve. We may have an expectation for a standard of living that we feel or believe we deserve — we are unwilling to live below some standard we establish.

Luke 9:58

And Jesus said to him, “The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air *have* nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.”

Philippians 2:1-4

1 If therefore there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion,

2 make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.

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.

1 Corinthians 4:7

For who regards you as superior? And what do you have that you did not receive? But if you did receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?

Proverbs 26:12

Do you see a man wise in his own eyes?
There is more hope for a fool than for him.

Romans 12:3

For through the grace given to me I say to every man among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.

Luke 7:36-50

36 Now one of the Pharisees was requesting Him to dine with him. And He entered the Pharisee's house, and reclined *at the table*.

37 And behold, there was a woman in the city who was a sinner; and when she learned that He was reclining *at the table* in the Pharisee's house, she brought an alabaster vial of perfume,

38 and standing behind *Him* at His feet, weeping, she began to wet His feet with her tears, and kept wiping them with the hair of her head, and kissing His feet, and anointing them with the perfume.

39 Now when the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet He would know who and what sort of person this woman is who is touching Him, that she is a sinner."

40 And Jesus answered and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." And he replied, "Say it, Teacher."

41 "A certain moneylender had two debtors: one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty.

42 "When they were unable to repay, he graciously forgave them both. Which of them therefore will love him more?"

43 Simon answered and said, "I suppose the one whom he forgave more." And He said to him, "You have judged correctly."

44 And turning toward the woman, He said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has wet My feet with her tears, and wiped them with her hair.

45 "You gave Me no kiss; but she, since the time I came in, has not ceased to kiss My feet.

46 "You did not anoint My head with oil, but she anointed My feet with perfume.

47 "For this reason I say to you, her sins, which are many, have been forgiven, for she loved much; but he who is forgiven little, loves little."

48 And He said to her, "Your sins have been forgiven."

49 And those who were reclining *at the table* with Him began to say to themselves, "Who is this *man* who even forgives sins?"

50 And He said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

Examples:

- Treating servers at restaurants as servants.
- Saying or thinking badly of the way other people raise their kids.
- Considering our culture (whatever that might be) as superior.

- Forgetting (or behaving as if we had forgotten) that we're utterly sinful and in ourselves also completely unacceptable to God.
- Unwillingness to live in an apartment.

5. *When we are depressed, or when we focus on our lack of abilities, skills, or even spiritual gifts* — There are people who may not appear to be proud because they often are down on themselves. However, this (being down on ourselves) is actually evidence of extreme pride. Depression is evidence of pride because those who are depressed are merely focused on themselves and want to be elevated from where they are, or believe they are. They are ignoring what God would have them believe, and the fact that God is sovereign and in control of their situation. Nothing happens by accident or apart from God's sovereign will. Having a "woe me" attitude is self-pity, which is pride; it is just thinking we deserve better and being unhappy or sad because we don't have what we think we deserve. In effect, when we get depressed, we are thinking God has done us wrong by putting us in the circumstances in which we may find ourselves — the circumstances that are causing us to choose to be depressed.

We should note that drugs and medications may influence the way people feel (depressed or not), but we are still responsible to have a godly view of our circumstances. Though the world teaches that depression is an illness to be treated with drugs; Scripture shows us that it is just sin, likely stemming from our pride, that can *only* be treated with God's Word, which leads us to have a proper perspective of God and ourselves in light of who God is.

2 Corinthians 7:10

For the sorrow that is according to *the will of God* produces a repentance without regret, *leading* to salvation; but the sorrow of the world produces death.

1 Corinthians 12:14-25

14 For the body is not one member, but many.

15 If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am not *a part* of the body," it is not for this reason any the less *a part* of the body.

16 And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I am not *a part* of the body," it is not for this reason any the less *a part* of the body.

17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were hearing, where would the sense of smell be?

18 But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired.

19 And if they were all one member, where would the body be?

20 But now there are many members, but one body.

21 And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; or again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."

22 On the contrary, it is much truer that the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary;

23 and those *members* of the body, which we deem less honorable, on these we bestow more abundant honor, and our unseemly *members come to* have more abundant seemliness,

24 whereas our seemly *members* have no need *of it*. But God has *so* composed the body, giving more abundant honor to that *member* which lacked,
 25 that there should be no division in the body, but *that* the members should have the same care for one another.

1 Petet 5:6-7

6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time,
 7 casting all your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you.

Matthew 6:25-34

25 “For this reason I say to you, do not be anxious for your life, *as to* what you shall eat, or what you shall drink; nor for your body, *as to* what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body than clothing?
 26 “Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns, and *yet* your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they?
 27 “And which of you by being anxious can add a *single* cubit to his life’s span?
 28 “And why are you anxious about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin,
 29 yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory did not clothe himself like one of these.
 30 “But if God so arrays the grass of the field, which is *alive* today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, *will He* not much more *do so for* you, O men of little faith?
 31 “Do not be anxious then, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘With what shall we clothe ourselves?’
 32 “For all these things the Gentiles eagerly seek; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.
 33 “But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you.
 34 “Therefore do not be anxious for tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. *Each* day has enough trouble of its own.

Examples:

- Being depressed because we don’t have the life we thought we would have (or deserved).
- Being worried about our job prospects.
- Being depressed as a result of what others have done or are doing to us.

6. *When we are perfectionists* — When we strive to get things done just “right,” just the way we want them. This “perfection” we seek is usually sought for the wrong reasons — to please ourselves, or to make us feel good about what we have done or how hard we have tried; but is not a “perfection” sought to honor God. We are being perfectionists when we treat things as more important than they really are. Sometimes, it is just doing things well just to get the recognition.

Matthew 23:24-28

- 24 “You blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel!
25 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside they are full of robbery and self-indulgence.
26 “You blind Pharisee, first clean the inside of the cup and of the dish, so that the outside of it may become clean also.
27 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness.
28 “Even so you too outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

1 John 1:8

If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

Romans 3:23

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Examples:

- Not being satisfied until something is completely the way we think it should be.
- When we don’t let people in our house because it doesn’t look the way we want it to look.
- When we spend more time on our homework (or at work) than we need to to be obedient to working as unto the Lord, and in the process neglect to obey clear commands to spend time in prayer, in fellowship with other believers, or studying God’s Word.
- Thinking we are too good to sin — “how could I have sinned in that way?”

7. *When we talk too much or we keep talking about ourselves* — Sometimes we talk because we like to hear ourselves. Sometimes because we deceive ourselves into thinking that whatever we have to say is more important than whatever someone else wants to tell us.

Proverbs 10:19

When there are many words, transgression is unavoidable,
But he who restrains his lips is wise.

Proverbs 27:2

Let another praise you, and not your own mouth;
A stranger, and not your own lips.

Galatians 6:3

For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

Example:

- Constantly telling people how well (or bad) we’re doing at work.
- Constantly telling people how good our kids are.
- Controlling a conversation.

- Not letting others speak.

8. *When we think we are self-sufficient or independent* — When we live as if there is “free will” — believing that we control our destiny. When we believe we are masters of our domain and that the things that come our way are the results of our doing (usually that our hard work is followed by well deserved good things). Some people will even go into business on their own so they don’t have to submit to a boss.

Ephesians 5:21

and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.

1 Peter 2:13-17

13 Submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority,

14 or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right.

15 For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men.

16 *Act* as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but *use it* as bondslaves of God.

17 Honor all men; love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king.

Example:

- Trying to minister outside the oversight of our church.

9. *When we are driven by peer-pressure* — When we’re consumed by what we think others may think. Many people base their decisions on what they believe others will think about them. Many people want to be liked or esteemed by others at all cost. They are man-pleasers rather than God-pleasers.

Galatians 1:10

For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ.

Examples:

- Doing illegal things at work to please the boss.
- Being afraid to speak in public.
- Being concerned about what others think if we don’t get married at all or by a certain age.
- Being concerned about what others think if we don’t have children, or enough children.

10. *When we behave as know-it-alls* — When we’re being unteachable. When we don’t make an effort to learn from others or heed the instructions and warnings other believers may give us.

John 9:13-34

13 They brought to the Pharisees him who was formerly blind.

- 14 Now it was a Sabbath on the day when Jesus made the clay, and opened his eyes.
- 15 Again, therefore, the Pharisees also were asking him how he received his sight. And he said to them, "He applied clay to my eyes, and I washed, and I see."
- 16 Therefore some of the Pharisees were saying, "This man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath." But others were saying, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And there was a division among them.
- 17 They said therefore to the blind man again, "What do you say about Him, since He opened your eyes?" And he said, "He is a prophet."
- 18 The Jews therefore did not believe *it* of him, that he had been blind, and had received sight, until they called the parents of the very one who had received his sight,
- 19 and questioned them, saying, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? Then how does he now see?"
- 20 His parents answered them and said, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind;
- 21 but how he now sees, we do not know; or who opened his eyes, we do not know. Ask him; he is of age, he shall speak for himself."
- 22 His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed, that if anyone should confess Him to be Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue.
- 23 For this reason his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."
- 24 So a second time they called the man who had been blind, and said to him, "Give glory to God; we know that this man is a sinner."
- 25 He therefore answered, "Whether He is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I do know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see."
- 26 They said therefore to him, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?"
- 27 He answered them, "I told you already, and you did not listen; why do you want to hear *it* again? You do not want to become His disciples too, do you?"
- 28 And they reviled him, and said, "You are His disciple, but we are disciples of Moses.
- 29 "We know that God has spoken to Moses; but as for this man, we do not know where He is from."
- 30 The man answered and said to them, "Well, here is an amazing thing, that you do not know where He is from, and *yet* He opened my eyes.
- 31 "We know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is God-fearing, and does His will, He hears him.
- 32 "Since the beginning of time it has never been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind.
- 33 "If this man were not from God, He could do nothing."
- 34 They answered and said to him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you teaching us?" And they put him out.

Proverbs 19:20

Listen to counsel and accept discipline,

That you may be wise the rest of your days.

Examples:

- Not being open to correction from others.
- Unwilling to learn from the instruction of others.

11. When we speak in sarcastic, hurtful, or degrading ways — In our pride we can say very unkind things to one another. We try to raise ourselves by belittling others, often hiding behind humor. Sometimes we do this out of habit, a habit we may have developed growing up in homes where these patterns were accepted or taught. Sometimes we may only speak in ways that could seem degrading to people who we know will not be offended, but may ignore how people listening may be offended by our words. In short, we are careless with our speech and allow ourselves to speak in ways that could be offensive (and not edifying) to those to whom we may be speaking or to those who may just be listening to us to speak.

Proverbs 12:18

There is one who speaks rashly like the thrusts of a sword,
But the tongue of the wise brings healing.

Proverbs 12:23

A prudent man conceals knowledge,
But the heart of fools proclaims folly.

Proverbs 26:19

So is the man who deceives his neighbor,
And says, “Was I not joking?”

Examples:

- Children who use disrespectful language or tone when talking to their parents or adults.

12. When we are unwilling to serve others — Our pride may keep us from being servants to others, from doing tasks we consider below us (like picking up trash or cleaning dishes). Our pride may keep us from going out of our way for others — we may be willing to “serve” for others as long as we can fit them into our schedule.

Galatians 5:13

For you were called to freedom, brethren; only *do not turn* your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

Ephesians 2:10

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Examples:

- Feeling like you need recognition for the work of “service” you’ve done.

13. *When we don’t have compassion for others* — Our pride can blind us from being aware of, or concerned about the needs others may be facing. In this country we enjoy an unusually high standard of living and we may think that everyone has at least some level of wealth or ability to support themselves. In so doing, we may neglect to notice the material need a fellow believer may find himself in.

Matthew 18:23-35

23 “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a certain king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves.

24 “And when he had begun to settle *them*, there was brought to him one who owed him ten thousand talents.

25 “But since he did not have *the means* to repay, his lord commanded him to be sold, along with his wife and children and all that he had, and repayment to be made.

26 “The slave therefore falling down, prostrated himself before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will repay you everything.’

27 “And the lord of that slave felt compassion and released him and forgave him the debt.

28 “But that slave went out and found one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and he seized him and *began* to choke *him*, saying, ‘Pay back what you owe.’

29 “So his fellow slave fell down and *began* to entreat him, saying, ‘Have patience with me and I will repay you.’

30 “He was unwilling however, but went and threw him in prison until he should pay back what was owed.

31 “So when his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved and came and reported to their lord all that had happened.

32 “Then summoning him, his lord said to him, ‘You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you entreated me.

33 ‘Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, even as I had mercy on you?’

34 “And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him.

35 “So shall My heavenly Father also do to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart.”

Matthew 5:7

“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

Example:

- Not noticing when our brothers are in need.
- Not coming along the troubles and difficulties our brothers may be going through.
- Thinking that others (elders/deacons/leaders) are the ones supposed to worry about that.

14. *When we get defensive* — We may blame-shift instead of accepting our errors. When we try to blame our mistakes, errors and sins on what others have done or are doing to us we are just too proud to take responsibility ourselves. This was what Adam and Eve did when confronted with their sin.

Genesis 3:12-13

12 And the man said, “The woman whom Thou gavest *to be* with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate.”

13 Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” And the woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

Proverbs 12:1

Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge,
But he who hates reproof is stupid.

Proverbs 10:17

He is *on* the path of life who heeds instruction,
But he who forsakes reproof goes astray.

Examples:

- “What about you?”
- “But she did xyz first.”
- “I was tired!”
- “I was just having a bad day!”

15. *When we refuse to ask for forgiveness* — Our pride may keep us from admitting our sins, and thus also from asking for forgiveness of them (to God or to others we may have offended). We may either not see our sin because our pride blinds us, or we may just not want to humble ourselves to ask for forgiveness.

Matthew 5:23-24

23 “If therefore you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you,

24 leave your offering there before the altar, and go your way; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering.

Examples:

- Telling people mean things and not asking for forgiveness.
- Treating people in mean ways and not asking for forgiveness.

16. *When we don't pray (biblically)* — We may either fail to pray all together, or if we do we may pray merely for things we want and not for God's will. Often, we pray less when we are busier, when we have too many things going on that require our time and attention. However, it is in these situations when we should pray the most! The harder things get for us to handle, means we need more prayer, more reliance on God to deal with them; not more time.

Luke 18:10-14

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.”

Examples:

- Praying for things we want, even health.
- Not praying for the things that would please God — our righteousness.

17. When we minimizing our own faults and shortcomings, while maximizing those in others — We don’t make a big deal out of our sin, but typically will of others.

Matthew 7:3-5

3 “And why do you look at the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?

4 “Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ and behold, the log is in your own eye?

5 “You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye.

Examples:

- Telling others how to fix their problems when we have not solved our own.

18. When we can’t stand things not being our way — When we make our way of doing or thinking more important than God’s.

Genesis 4:1-7

1 Now the man had relations with his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain, and she said, “I have gotten a manchild with *the help of the LORD.*”

2 And again, she gave birth to his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of flocks, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.

3 So it came about in the course of time that Cain brought an offering to the LORD of the fruit of the ground.

4 And Abel, on his part also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and for his offering;

5 but for Cain and for his offering He had no regard. So Cain became very angry and his countenance fell.

6 Then the LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen?”

7 “If you do well, will not *your countenance* be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it.”

Examples:

- “I like to just pray the ‘Our Father’ prayer, and God should like that!”

19. *When we are impatient or irritable with others* — Our pride may allow us to get angry at other people when we believe that they are causing our plans to be ruined or our schedules to change.

Ephesians 4:31-32

31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.

32 And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

Examples:

- My wife just keeps on talking to me and I’m late for xyz/trying to go to sleep.
- “The kids don’t leave me alone!”
- My wife is not answering my question.

20. *When we’re jealous of envious* — When we want what others have, we are thinking we should have what others have because we deserve it too, or because they don’t deserve it, or because we could do better things with what others have.

1 Corinthians 13:4

Love is patient, love is kind, *and* is not jealous; love does not brag *and* is not arrogant,

Examples:

- Envyng your friend because he has a pretty girlfriend.
- Envyng your friend because he has a better tv.
- Envyng Bill Gates because we thing we can do better things than him with the few extra dollars he has ☺.

21. *When we use or manipulate others* — Focusing on what we can get from other people, not how we can sever them.

Matthew 7:12

“Therefore, however you want people to treat you, so treat them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

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.

Examples:

- Talking to people only when there is something we want from them.
- Talking to people at church just to sell them XYZ product.

22. *When we're deceitful* — Covering up our sins, faults or mistakes.

Proverbs 28:13

He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper,
But he who confesses and forsakes *them* will find compassion.

Proverbs 11:3

The integrity of the upright will guide them,
But the falseness of the treacherous will destroy them.

Examples:

- When we pretend to be what we are not so that others won't think badly of us.

23. *When we try to get attention from others* — We might seek attention by the way we dress, walk, behave, talk, etc.

1 Peter 3:3-4

3 And let not your adornment be *merely* external —braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses;

4 but *let it be* the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.

Examples:

- Dressing to impress.

24. *When we don't allow anyone to know us* — Not having close relationships because we think the trouble outweighs the benefits. When we don't want to meet that new person because we don't need more relationships — an attitude that fails to think about the other person.

Proverbs 18:1-2

1 He who separates himself seeks *his own* desire, He quarrels against all sound wisdom.

2 A fool does not delight in understanding, But only in revealing his own mind.

Hebrews 10:24-25

24 and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds,

25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near.

4.0 Humility

God has commanded us to be humble and has given us all we need to be humble and not proud. God gives greater grace to those who are humble – He gives them sufficient grace (the means) for them not to be overtaken by the temptation of being proud.

James 4:6

But He gives a greater grace. Therefore *it* says, “GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.”

1 Peter 5:5

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.

1 Corinthians 10:13

No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it.

Humility is what God has prepared for His chosen people; it is His will for us to be humble.

Colossians 3:12

And so, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;

God is pleased humility and rewards it.

Proverbs 22:4

The reward of humility *and* the fear of the LORD
Are riches, honor and life.

Therefore, it is important to understand how we can be humble. In order to be humble we should have an understanding of what humility really is.

4.1 Definitions of Humility

Here are some definitions of humility:

Humility (noun)^x

The quality of being modest or respectful.

Humility (noun)^{xi}

Humbleness of mind; lack of pride; meekness.

Humble (adjective)^{xii}

1. Modest and unassuming in attitude and behavior
2. Feeling or showing respect and deference toward other people
3. Relatively low in rank and without pretensions

Humble (verb)

1. To make somebody feel less proud or convinced of his or her own importance
2. To lower somebody in rank or importance

Humble (adjective)^{xiii}

1. Low in position or condition; not important; not grand.

Examples:

- He has a humble job with very low wages.
- Lincoln was born in a humble log cabin; he was of humble origin. (synonymous with unpretentious, common, and poor).

2. Modest in spirit; not proud.

Example: Defeat and failure make people humble.

3. Deeply or courteously respectful.

Example: In my humble opinion.

Humble (verb)

1. To make humble or meek; lower the pride of; humiliate.
2. To make lower in position, condition, or importance.

4.2 The World's View of Humility

People in today's world hold to various views of humility, yet most of these views seem to consider humility to be a possible (or in some cases a certain) weakness in the person who has it. Some people treat humility as a negative characteristic more openly than others. Some people seek to encourage humility, but in the process adopt worldly perspectives and end up, though subtly, still presenting humility as a weakness to be avoided.

At one extreme, the German philosopher Nietzsche openly considered humility to be a weakness, a false virtue which concealed the frailties and hidden crookedness in its holder.^{xiv}

More dangerously perhaps, there are those within the church who have popularized a view of humility that is not offensive to the world, but that misrepresents Biblical commands regarding humility. In the popular self-help book, *A Purpose Driven Life* the reader is advised that humility "is not thinking less of yourself; it is thinking of yourself less. Humility is thinking more of others. Humble people are so focused on serving others, they don't think of themselves."^{xv}

"What is wrong with this view?" some may ask. We just need to consider what the Word of God has to say about humility.

4.3 The Word's View of Humility

Humility is thinking *more* of others. Humility is being *more* focused on serving others. However, humility also, and by commandment, is thinking *less* of our own importance, and more of the importance of others. As we have pointed out

earlier, merely spending less time thinking about ourselves does not constitute humility. In Philippians 2:3 we read, “Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself.” When the New American Standard translation uses the word “let” in the New Testament, it usually signifies that the verb that is associated with the word “let” is in the imperative or command form; not an easily distinguishable form in English. So here we are commanded to “regard,” “consider,” “deem,” or “think” (HEGEOMAI) of others as “more important than us,” “surpassing us,” “of more value than us,” or “better than us” (HUPERECHONTAS).

Let’s look at what else Scripture tells us regarding humility and the humble:

Matthew 11:28-30

28 “Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, 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 SHALL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS.

30 “For My yoke is easy, and My load is light.”

2 Corinthians 10:1

Now I, Paul, myself urge you by the **meekness** and **gentleness** of Christ—I who am meek when face to face with you, but bold toward you when absent!

Romans 12:16

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.

Matthew 18:4

“Whoever then **humbles** himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

2 Corinthians 11:7

Or did I commit a sin in **humbling** myself that you might be exalted, because I preached the gospel of God to you without charge?

Luke 1:46-55 (The Magnificat)

46 And Mary said: My soul exalts the Lord,

47 And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.

48 “For He has had regard for the humble state of His bondservant; For behold, from this time on all generations will count me blessed.

49 “For the Mighty One has done great things for me; And holy is His name.

50 “AND HIS MERCY IS UPON GENERATION AFTER GENERATION TOWARD THOSE WHO FEAR HIM.

51 “He has done mighty deeds with His arm;

He has scattered *those who were* proud in the thoughts of their heart.

52 “He has brought down rulers from *their* thrones,

And has exalted those who were **humble**.

53 “HE HAS FILLED THE HUNGRY WITH GOOD THINGS;
AND SENT AWAY THE RICH EMPTY-HANDED.

54 “He has given help to Israel His servant,
In remembrance of His mercy,

55 As He spoke to our fathers,
To Abraham and his offspring forever.”

Matthew 23:11-12

11 “But the greatest among you shall be your servant.

12 “And whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever **humbles** himself shall be exalted.

Luke 14:11

“For everyone who exalts himself shall be humbled, and he who **humbles** himself shall be exalted.”

- Jesus is to be our example of humility. (Matthew 11:28-30; 2 Corinthians 10:1)
- We are to associate with the humble. We are all to think that others are more important than us. (Romans 12:16)
- The humility of a child is to be sought after. (Matthew 18:4)
- There is no weakness or sin in humility. (2 Corinthians 11:17)
- Mary did not boast that she would give birth to Jesus, but that He was her Lord and Savior; God exalts the humble. (Luke 1:46-55)
- God exalts the humble. (Matthew 23:11-12; Luke 14:11)

4.3.1 Defining Humility from Scripture^{xvi xvii}

These are the Greek words used in the New Testament and translated into English words like “humility,” “humble,” and “humbleness.”

- TAPEINOS – primarily meaning low-lying. Always used positively in the New Testament to denote a low degree or bringing low. Humble, poor, of humble circumstances; downcast, downhearted; lacking confidence, meek, mild.
- TAPEINOPHRON – signifies to make low, to be abased.
- TAPEINOPHROSUNE – lowliness of mind, or humility of mind.

4.3.2 False Humility

False humility can be just thinking we are humble. We can even take pride in our humility. More subtly, we can take pride in our low position and think that to be humility. Paul warned us about falling into such tempting train of thought:

Colossians 2:18-23

Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in **self-abasement** and the worship of the angels, taking his stand on *visions* he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind,

19 and not holding fast to the head, from whom the entire body, being supplied and held together by the joints and ligaments, grows with a growth which is from God.

20 If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world, why, as if you were living in the world, do you submit yourself to decrees, such as,

21 “Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!”

22 (which all *refer to* things destined to perish with the using)—in accordance with the commandments and teachings of men?

23 These are matters which have, to be sure, the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and **self-abasement** and severe treatment of the body, *but are* of no value against fleshly indulgence.

Commenting on this passage, F.F. Bruce writes, “Humility is a Christian virtue, but the ‘humility’ professed by the people here referred to is a counterfeit ‘humility.’ The truly humble person is unconscious of his or her humility, let alone taking delight or pride in it.”^{xviii}

Worldly religiousness views an ascetic life with admiration — just think of how monks of any religion are typically portrayed on tv. The people Paul talks about in this passage believed they were doing more than what God wanted by mistreating their bodies, but that is no better (and no different to God) than fleshly indulgence. Again, quoting Bruce, “The term which Paul uses implies that these people thought they were offering God a voluntary addition to his basic requirements—a supererogatory devotion by which they hoped to acquire superior merit in his sight. Far from being of any avail against the indulgence of the ‘flesh,’ as its proponents claimed, it could and often did coexist with overweening self-conceit, making it extremely difficult for those who accept it to admit the truth that in God’s sight they were sinners, desperately in need of his salvation.”^{xix}

Replacing one form of pride with another is not what God would have us do. Genuine growth in humility requires that we know the attitudes we need to put on and the right reason for doing this — honoring our Savior.

4.3.3 The Humility To Put On

How do we practice the humility God would have us practice?

1. *When we recognize and trust in God’s character* — The more we think about, meditate and ponder upon God’s character the more we see how far off from His perfection we are. The more we think about and ponder upon God’s character the better we see His faithfulness, His power, His sovereignty, and His other attributes that lead us to trust Him more. Trusting God is a sign of humility. Eventually this trust will grow into gratitude even in the mists of trials.

Proverbs 3:5-7

5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
And do not lean on your own understanding.

6 In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He will make your paths straight.
7 Do not be wise in your own eyes;
Fear the LORD and turn away from evil.

Psalm 119:66
Teach me good discernment and knowledge,
For I believe in Thy commandments.

James 1:17
Every good thing bestowed and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation, or shifting shadow.

1 Corinthians 1:9
God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

Exodus 23:10-12
10 "And you shall sow your land for six years and gather in its yield,
11 but *on* the seventh year you shall let it rest and lie fallow, so that the needy of your people may eat; and whatever they leave the beast of the field may eat. You are to do the same with your vineyard *and* your olive grove.
12 "Six days you are to do your work, but on the seventh day you shall cease *from labor* in order that your ox and your donkey may rest, and the son of your female slave, as well as your stranger, may refresh themselves.

2. When we recognize we have absolutely no right to question or judge God — God can do whatever He wants! And whatever God does is right! Whatever God does is good, by definition. God can do no wrong. The only way we can know what is genuinely good is by knowing what God's opinion about something is. We have no right to question God on anything.

Psalms 145:17
The LORD is righteous in all His ways,
And kind in all His deeds.

Romans 9:18-23
18 So then He has mercy on whom He desires, and He hardens whom He desires.
19 You will say to me then, "Why does He still find fault? For who resists His will?"
20 On the contrary, who are you, O man, who answers back to God? The thing molded will not say to the molder, "Why did you make me like this," will it?
21 Or does not the potter have a right over the clay, to make from the same lump one vessel for honorable use, and another for common use?

22 What if God, although willing to demonstrate His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction?

23 And *He did so* in order that He might make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He prepared beforehand for glory,

3. When we focus on following Christ's example — Who can be more humble than Christ! He treated us as more important than Himself, when we really are not. The One worthy of all worship humbled Himself to endure suffering at the hands of His creation. He did it for the “joy set before Him.” What was this “joy set before Him”? Certainly it included His return to glory, but most pertinent to us it also included the completion of His redemptive work, the salvation of unworthy sinners. Jesus focused on our advantage, saw it as a joy for which He endured suffering; suffering He did not deserve.

Hebrews 12:1-3

1 Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

3 For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you may not grow weary and lose heart.

Philippians 2:3-11

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.

5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,

6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,

7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness of men.

8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

9 Therefore also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,

10 that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE SHOULD BOW, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth,

11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

4. When we pray, fervently, how the Bible teaches us to pray — Praying for God's sovereign will, for His strength in protecting us from sin, shows our acceptance of our inadequacy to do anything good or right apart from Him. Biblical prayer shows our dependence upon God. Biblical prayer is not

characterized by supplications for material things, including good health and safe travels; but is characterized by reverent submission to the will and purposes of God. It is characterized by persistence and faith that He will accomplish His will. It is characterized by gratitude for all things.

1 Thessalonians 5:17
pray without ceasing;

1 Timothy 2:1-2

1 First of all, then, I urge that entreaties *and* prayers, petitions *and* thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men,
2 for kings and all who are in authority, in order that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.

Romans 8:26-27

26 And in the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for *us* with groanings too deep for words;
27 and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to *the will of God*.

Matthew 6:9-11

9 “Pray, then, in this way:
Our Father who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name.
10 ‘Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.
11 ‘Give us this day our daily bread.
12 ‘And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.
13 ‘And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. [For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.]’

John 14:12

12 “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater *works* than these shall he do; because I go to the Father.
13 “And whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.
14 “If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do *it*.

Psalms 37:4

Delight yourself in the LORD;
And He will give you the desires of your heart.

John 15:4-5

4 “Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, so neither *can* you, unless you abide in Me.

5 “I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.

5. When we are overcome or overwhelmed with awe over the great and undeserved grace and goodness that God bestows upon us — As we ponder how unworthy we are of even the smallest attention from God, and realize how much attention He pays to us we can only be at awe.

Psalms 116:12-19

12 What shall I render to the LORD
For all His benefits toward me?

13 I shall lift up the cup of salvation,
And call upon the name of the LORD.

14 I shall pay my vows to the LORD,
Oh *may it be* in the presence of all His people.

15 Precious in the sight of the LORD
Is the death of His godly ones.

16 O LORD, surely I am Thy servant,
I am Thy servant, the son of Thy handmaid,
Thou hast loosed my bonds.

17 To Thee I shall offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving,
And call upon the name of the LORD.

18 I shall pay my vows to the LORD,
Oh *may it be* in the presence of all His people,

19 In the courts of the LORD’S house,
In the midst of you,
O Jerusalem. Praise the LORD!

Romans 7:24

Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?

6. When we are genuinely thankful towards others — Thanking people for doing even the smallest of things for us, because we are blessed to have them do anything for us. This is a fact we need to believe wholeheartedly so we might act accordingly. Imagine, if we didn’t expect, or thought we deserve, or felt we had the right to anything from others, then when we did get something from them it would be more natural, easier even, for us to be thankful and show them our gratitude.

1 Thessalonians 5:18

in everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 5:18-21

18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit,

19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord;

20 always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father;

21 and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.

7. *When we are patient and gentle with others, especially with difficult people —* When we desire to act in honor of God so much that we purpose not to focus on what we may want, but in what might minister to others, in whatever might advance the gospel.

Galatians 5:22-23

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Colossians 1:9-12

9 For this reason also, since the day we heard *of it*, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,

10 so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please *Him* in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

11 strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously

12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

Colossians 3:12-13

12 And so, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;

13 bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.

1 Timothy 1:15-16

15 It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost *of all*.

16 And yet for this reason I found mercy, in order that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience, as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life.

8. *When we see, believe and treat ourselves as no better than anyone else —* If we understand how sinful we are and how holy God is we should have an easier time thinking less (in quality as well as in quantity) of ourselves. When we see all we have as blessings we don't deserve we will be more likely to feel honored over what we have, than proud of what we have.

Ephesians 3:8

To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ,

Romans 12:1-16

- 1 I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship.
- 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.
- 3 For through the grace given to me I say to every man among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.
- 4 For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function,
- 5 so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.
- 6 And since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, *let each exercise them accordingly*: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith;
- 7 if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching;
- 8 or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.
- 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.

9. *When we have an accurate view of our abilities and gifts* — Even when we can perform better than someone else at something, we need to remember that the only reason we can do so is because God has so determined it in His sovereignty, and is thus something to be thankful and honored about (not proud of).

Romans 12:3

10. *When we are good listeners* — We can listen to others out of consideration and love for them, thinking and considering whatever is in their minds to tell us as more important than whatever we would like to talk about. We can and should be genuinely interested on how others are doing and in what interests them. Being good listeners also involves our actively seeking to know how we can minister to others by communicating with them.

James 1:19-20

19 *This* you know, my beloved brethren. But let everyone be quick to hear, slow to speak *and* slow to anger;

20 for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God.

11. When we limit our discussions or conversations about other people only to that which is good for their edification and the edification of those listening — We can show humility in ensuring we only speak well of others, which will be greatly helped by how we think about them; viz., if we think of others in light of what we know about God's holiness and our sinfulness.

Proverbs 11:13

He who goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets,
But he who is trustworthy conceals a matter.

Colossians 3:16-17

16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

17 And whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

Ephesians 4:29

Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such *a word* as is good for edification according to the need *of the moment*, that it may give grace to those who hear.

12. When we submit and obey with joy — Humble people are first of all obedient to God, and then to the authorities over them; and they take joy in this obedience.

Romans 13:1-2

1 Let every person be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.

2 Therefore he who resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves.

Ephesians 5:21

and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.

13. When we give preference to the wishes of others over our own — Humble people are willing to put others before themselves without first considering their own rights. Doing so, not to liked, but to be honoring to God.

Romans 12:10

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor;

Romans 15:2

Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to his edification.

14. When we are thankful for criticism or reproof — If we are seeking to follow Christ and serve Him as He wants us to, we should be glad that others may show us enough love to help us to better do this. If we are conscious of our own sinfulness, we wont be surprised that someone might notice sin in our lives that we had not, and we would we thankful that we can then address it.

Proverbs 9:8

Do not reprove a scoffer, lest he hate you,
Reprove a wise man, and he will love you.

Proverbs 27:5-6

5 Better is open rebuke
Than love that is concealed.
6 Faithful are the wounds of a friend,
But deceitful are the kisses of an enemy.

15. When we have a teachable spirit — We should know there is much for us to learn and we should be open to learning more, especially anything that will help us grow closer to Christ. We should be open to learning from anyone, not just those in authority over us, since God can use anyone to teach us what He'd have us learn. In fact, even when we think we are right we should be willing to consider that we may be wrong.

1 Corinthians 4:7

For who regards you as superior? And what do you have that you did not receive?
But if you did receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?

Psalms 25:4-5

4 Make me know Thy ways, O LORD;
Teach me Thy paths.
5 Lead me in Thy truth and teach me,
For Thou art the God of my salvation;
For Thee I wait all the day.

Psalms 119:71

It is good for me that I was afflicted,
That I may learn Thy statutes.

16. When we seek to serve others instead of waiting to be served ourselves — This is just following Jesus' example. Our purpose in fellowship should be to serve others, not to have others serve us. This includes our coming together at church, our family gatherings, our activities with friends, and even our going to work.

Galatians 5:13

For you were called to freedom, brethren; only *do not turn* your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

Matthew 20:26-27

26 "It is not so among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant,
27 and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave;
28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

17. When we seek forgiveness and reconciliation with others — It is only our pride that can keep us bitter or hurt by what others may say or do to us, on purpose or not.

Colossians 3:12-14

12 And so, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;

13 bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.

14 And beyond all these things *put on* love, which is the perfect bond of unity.

18. When we quickly repent of our sins — A humble person will ask God for forgiveness on the daily basis and will make strides towards genuine change, transformation.

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

19. When we focus on identifying and correcting our own sins, not those of others — We need to view dealing with our sins as far more important than dealing with, or even discussing, the sins of others.

Matthew 7:1-5

1 “Do not judge lest you be judged.

2 “For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you.

3 “And why do you look at the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?

4 “Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ and behold, the log is in your own eye?

5 “You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye.

20. When we are genuinely happy for others — We can be happy that others advance instead of us, because if it so happens it so happens by God’s sovereign will, not by chance. But more importantly, we can be happy to see God’s blessings on anyone.

Romans 12:15

Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.

5.0 Conclusion

We are being proud when we think more highly of ourselves than we should. We are being humble when we think accurately of ourselves — as unworthy sinners living for a little while on Earth for the sole purpose of bringing glory to our Creator. We are not here to have our way, we are not here to be served, we are not here to be treated fairly, we are not here to enjoy our wealth, we are here to honor God by obeying all that He commands.

5.1 Personal Applications

It is helpful to put ourselves into perspective, more specifically, to consider our place in light of who God is. If we ponder and believe the attributes God has revealed about Himself in Scripture we'll have a better chance at living a life in light of these truths. We will also be able to see ourselves more clearly as whom we really are. To help us in this we'll close our study by next considering some of His attributes that God has chosen to reveal to us.

5.1.1 The Attributes of God

The solitariness of God: "God was under no constraint, no obligation, no necessity to create. That He chose to do so was purely a sovereign act on His part, caused by nothing outside Himself, determined by nothing but His own mere good pleasure."^{xx} God was perfect and complete before He created; we add nothing to God.

Ephesians 1:11

also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,

The knowledge of God: God knows everything, but "God's knowledge does not arise from things because they are or will be, but because He has *ordain* them to be."^{xxi} God is not surprised by anything. That Jesus would be the sacrificial Lamb, for example, was not merely known by God, it was ordained or predestined to be so by His will.

Acts 2:22-23

22 "Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know —

23 this *Man*, delivered up by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put *Him* to death.

2 Thessalonians 2:13

But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.

The supremacy of God: God is above and beyond any and all of creation. God is supreme over His creation. By necessity then, God's supremacy includes His perfect rule over the wills of men.

Exodus 34:24

"For I will drive out nations before you and enlarge your borders, and no man shall covet your land when you go up three times a year to appear before the LORD your God.

1 Chronicles 29:11-12

"Thine, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, indeed everything that is in the heavens and the earth; Thine is the dominion, O LORD, and Thou dost exalt Thyself as head over all.

12 “Both riches and honor *come* from Thee, and Thou dost rule over all, and in Thy hand is power and might; and it lies in Thy hand to make great, and to strengthen everyone.

2 Chronicles 20:6

and he said, “O LORD, the God of our fathers, art Thou not God in the heavens? And art Thou not ruler over all the kingdoms of the nations? Power and might are in Thy hand so that no one can stand against Thee.

The sovereignty of God: “The sovereignty of God may be defined as the *exercise* of His supremacy... Devine sovereignty means that God is God in fact, as well as in name, that He is on the throne of the universe, directing all things, working all things ‘after the counsel of His own will’ (Eph. 1:11)”^{xxii} God is in control of everything. He is sovereign and supreme, He is by Whom and through Whom all things happen. What in us is there for us to be proud of?

Isaiah 46:10

Declaring the end from the beginning
And from ancient times things which have not been done,
Saying, ‘My purpose will be established,
And I will accomplish all My good pleasure’;

Daniel 4:35

“And all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing,
But He does according to His will in the host of heaven
And *among* the inhabitants of earth;
And no one can ward off His hand
Or say to Him, ‘What hast Thou done?’

Hebrews 2:10

For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to perfect the author of their salvation through sufferings.

1 Peter 4:11

Whoever speaks, *let him speak*, as it were, the utterances of God; whoever serves, *let him do so* as by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

ⁱ All verses from New American Standard Bible

ⁱⁱ World Book; 2004

ⁱⁱⁱ Encarta World English Dictionary; 1999.

^{iv} Funk & Wagnalls Standard Desk Dictionary; 1982.

^v Wikipedia; 2007.

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- ^{vi} Vine, W.E.; Vine's Dictionary of New Testament Words; MacDonald Publishing Company; McLean, Virginia.
- ^{vii} Aland, Barbara; Kurt Aland, Johannes Karavidopoulos, Carlo M. Martini, Bruce Metzger; The Greek New Testament; United Bible Societies, 4th Edition (UBS4); Stuttgart, Germany; 1994.
- ^{viii} Adapted from Stuart Scott's booklet "From Pride to Humility"; Focus Publishing; Bemidji, Minnesota; 2002.
- ^{ix} The *only* righteous anger we can have is anger directed at our own sins, not those of others. For an extended explanation listen to Gerry Andersen's messages on "The Anger of Man" from October 6-7, 2001; and "The Anger of God" from October 13-14, 2001.
- ^x Encarta.
- ^{xi} World Book.
- ^{xii} Encarta.
- ^{xiii} World Book.
- ^{xiv} Wikipedia; 2007.
- ^{xv} Warren, Rick; The Purpose Driven Life; Zondervan; Grand Rapids, Michigan; 2002; pg. 148.
- ^{xvi} Vine.
- ^{xvii} USB4
- ^{xviii} Bruce, F.F.; The New International Commentary on the New Testament: *Epistles to the Colossians, to Philemon, and to the Ephesians*; William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company; Grand Rapids, Michigan; 1984; pg. 118.
- ^{xix} Bruce; pgs. 128-129.
- ^{xx} Pink, Arthur W.; The Attributes of God; Baker Book House; Grand Rapids, Michigan; 1975; pgs. 9-10.
- ^{xxi} Pink; pg. 20.
- ^{xxii} Pink; pg. 32.