

Humility

“Humility is knowing who God is and who I am.”

I believe this is true. I also have observed the lives of many struggling believers for whom this one issue was the watershed. For each, embracing the truth about who God is and who they are would bring solution to their problems. Refusing to live based on who God is and who they are would perpetuate and multiply their difficulties.

In Luke 17:5-10 we see what our attitude as unworthy sinners saved by grace should be. Luke 18:9-14 contrasts the prayer of the proud and the humble and God's response to each. John 1:1-4 provides truths about Christ on which to meditate. Romans 3:22-27 gives us basic truths of man, sin, God and salvation that strongly identify who God is and who we are.

Pride is the opposite of humility. Pride does not give top priority to God but to self. Pride does not obey God by regarding others as more important than self. Pride does not submit to God's will.

1 Corinthians 3:5-7 supplies an accurate view of who does what in ministry. 2 Corinthians 4:5 tells us what to teach about ourselves and Christ. Galatians 2:20 and Philippians 1:21 depict the priorities of a heart that views God and itself correctly. Philippians 2:5-11 teaches us to have the same attitude as Christ, and describes His attitude and its results.

Many married Christians have made a pattern of putting the desires of self over those of their spouse. Others argue because winning is valued above honoring God. Some refuse to make serving in love their mission, rather they expect service. This phenomenon can be manifested in dealing with children, in communication, in everyday decision making (what to do, what to watch on TV, when to go to bed) or in intimate times.

Colossians 3:1-4 gives two categories to determine what to seek and what to think about as well as what not to seek or dwell on. 1 Timothy 4:6-16 gives a detailed map of the road to God-honoring humility. Hebrews 11:1-3, 6-16 shows humility in the form of true faith. James 3:13-18 identifies the wisdom of humility and the foolishness of jealousy and selfish ambition.

Many people who have struggled unsuccessfully with sins of lust, anger, control or food consumption have had at the base of their habit of failure a lack of humility. For them, studying the Scriptures regarding the attributes of God and the true identity of man would open the door to change. To subsequently humble themselves before the God of the universe would change their perspective of temptation and their power to overcome it.

1 Peter 2:11-17 provides practical implications of humility in relation to lust and government. 1 Peter 2:18-25 answers the question "What if a humble believer is treated unfairly?" 1 John 2:15-17 has a world of application. Revelation 21:1-7 shows most clearly who God is and who we are. The passages noted in this study, and dozens of others, each contain life-changing truth. When one evaluates his or her own life by these bold truths about God and His children everything becomes clear: humility in marriage, humility in Bible study, humility as a parent, humility at work, humility in every part of life.

In the ministry of biblical counseling there is a great joy in seeing God do what only He can do. He uses the living and active truth of His Word to change hearts. I have seen believers understand who God is and who they are. I have seen them embrace this true humility. I have seen pride put aside, marriage changed and sin overcome. All praise, glory and honor are God's. How awesome is our God!

In preaching or in biblical counseling, when the Word is taught accurately and in a practical way – in relation to real ideas and events in the lives of people – then we have the great privilege of observing God using His living and active Word to change lives. He quips them for every good work. He sanctifies them!