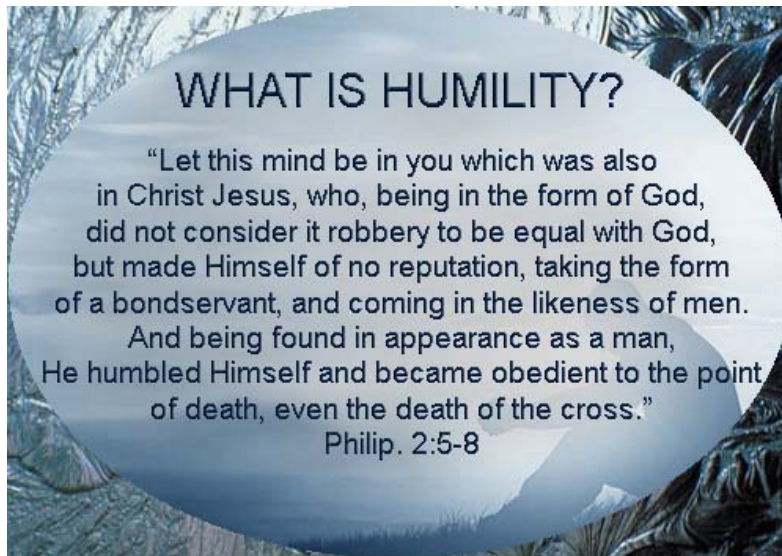


HUMILITY

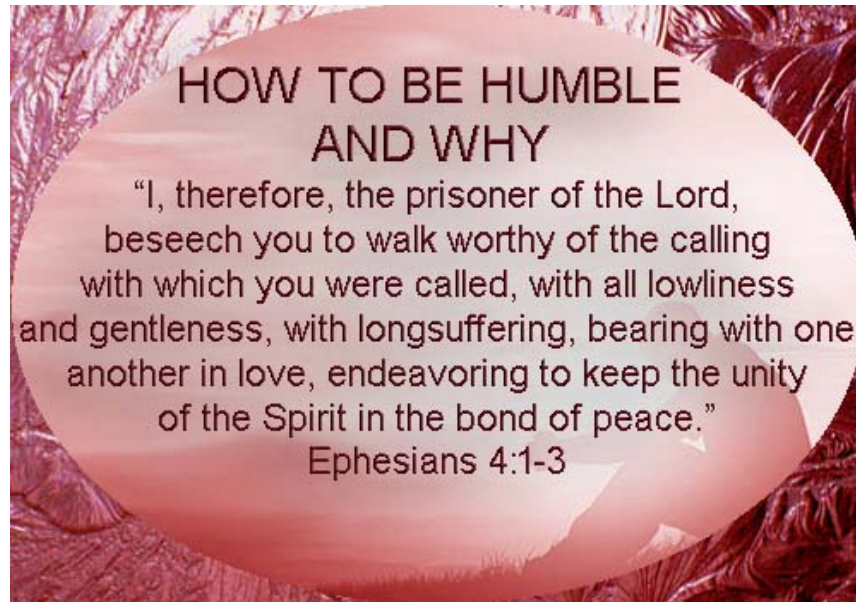


The world defines humility as modesty, being unpretentious, or as having a low opinion of oneself. Humility, as defined in the bible, is the realization that God is Sovereign, and that we must come to Him with a submissive heart. In other words, it is never about who we are but rather about who God is. To God, our value can only be found in Christ and Christ alone.

God clearly stated what He requires from us in Micah 6:8: “He has shown you, O man, what *is* good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?” Humility with God is to recognize we are His creation and are and will ever be subject to His will and Word, whether we want it or not. Jesus in Mark 10:45 said, “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” In other words, Jesus humbled Himself in obedience to God to the point of giving His life for us.

The opposite of humility is pride, and we know that “Pride *goes* before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.” Pr. 16:18. That’s why when His disciples were discussing as to who would be the greatest, Jesus said this: “If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all.”

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Why is humility important to God? The featured scripture of Paul describes with clarity how to live humbly with one another, and to keep unity of the Spirit in Christ. Is there however a core purpose of true humility as defined by God?

In 1 Cor. 1:29 Paul states, “That no flesh should glory in His presence.” In other words, all glory belongs to God, as we are mere servants of the most High through Christ Jesus. That’s why James tells us that God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. Proverbs 8:13 adds, “Pride and arrogance and the evil way, and the perverse mouth I hate.”

Jesus, in Matthew 11:29-30 gave this command; “Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke *is* easy and My burden is light.” Obviously, our great and only true example of humility is found in our Lord Jesus Christ, the One to imitate.

Isaiah 57:15 clarifies God’s view of humility this way, “For this is what the high and exalted One who lives forever, whose name is Holy, says: “I dwell *in* a high and holy place, and *also* with the contrite and lowly of spirit in order to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite.” True humility comes from a sincere heart for Christ.

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PURPOSE FOR HUMILITY

“God resists the proud,
but gives grace to the humble.
Therefore humble yourselves
under the mighty hand of God,
that He may exalt you in due time.”
1Peter 5:5-6

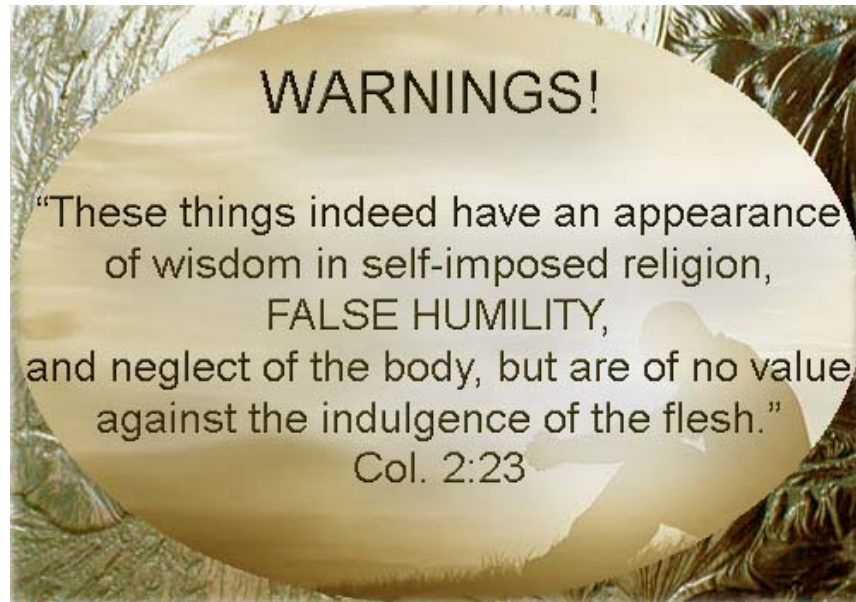
Should we expect fringe benefits from humility? How does God judge and treat the humble person as opposed to the proud? Psalm 149:4 tells us that “For the LORD takes pleasure in His people; He will beautify the humble with salvation.”

The clear proof that humility is required by God is found at the door entrance of His Kingdom, salvation through Christ. It requires entering through the narrow door with a humble heart, repent, and completely surrender our life to follow Christ. Then the glorious reward we receive is that God becomes our Father, Christ our Savior, and the Holy Spirit our guide.

Jesus said this; “Blessed *are* the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” (Mat. 5:3) We can conclude that God requires humility from us to enter His Kingdom. Conversely those who are proud will eventually face God’s judgment. “A man’s pride will bring him low,” says Pr. 29:23, and Pr. 11:2 adds, “When pride comes, then comes shame; but with the humble *is* wisdom.”

In other words, while the humble is blessed, the proud will be brought low and shamed. While for a time they might rejoice in their haughtiness, they will eventually face God’s righteousness that will pulverize that pride to dust. Is it even worth it?

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Is there such hypocrisy as false humility? Paul, in the featured scripture brings a word of caution about those who use religion that may appear to promote humility, but rather are self-glorifying through appearance of godly wisdom yet humanly focused, adorned with religious garb, ceremonies and prideful rituals absent of Christ. Such hypocrisy is motivated by pride and is no less than an insult to God.

Prov. 16:18-19 says, “Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. Better *to be* of a humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud.” In other words, pride will result in humbling consequences, and furthermore lead to complete destruction of the soul in eternal hell. When all is said and done and we come to the end of this life, what value will pride have when facing God? As Proverb 18:12 says, “Before destruction the heart of a man is haughty, and before honor *is* humility.”

In essence, if we ever desire to be honored by God through being eternally in His presence, humility is our only attitude that will bring us to the door of heaven, Jesus Christ being at the door to welcome and embrace us. That alone is enough to bring us on our knees, surrender and follow Christ as Lord.

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