

Character Qualities: Humility

1 Corinthians 4:7

Our next lesson in our character qualities series goes against everything we are taught today in the media and our culture. It also goes against our flesh. Today we will study about **humility**.

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? (1 Corinthians 4:7, NASB).

τις γαρ σε διακρινει τι δε εχεις ο ουκ ελαβες ει δε και ελαβες τι καυχασαι ως μη λαβων (1 Corinthians 4:7, WH).

But He gives a greater grace. Therefore *it* says, “GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.” (James 4:6, NASB).

μειζονα δε διδωσιν χαριν διο λεγει ο θεος υπερηφανοις αντιτασεται ταπεινοις δε διδωσιν χαριν (James 4:6, WH).

Αντιτασεται - Sets himself in battle array against him.

Intro: Define Humility

What Is Humility? (<http://billgothard.com/bill/teaching/characterqualities/>)

Humility is recognizing that it is actually God and others who are responsible for the achievements in my life

Character consists of the stable and distinctive qualities built into an individual's life that determine his or her responses, regardless of the circumstances.

The opposite of pride.

Humility vs. Humiliation - Humiliation is a proud person being embarrassed.

How would you rate your own humility? _____

Your children? _____

I. Humility in Proverbs

3:7 - Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and turn away from evil.

6:16-19 - There are six things which the LORD hates, Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him: Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, And hands that shed innocent blood, A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that run rapidly to evil, A false witness *who* utters lies, And one who spreads strife among brothers.

8:13 - The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way, And the perverted mouth, I hate.

11:2 - When pride comes, then comes dishonor, But with the humble is wisdom.

15:25 - The LORD will tear down the house of the proud, But He will establish the boundary of the widow.

15:33 - The fear of the LORD is the instruction for wisdom, And before honor *comes* humility.

16:18 - Pride *goes* before destruction, And a haughty spirit before stumbling.

22:2 - The rich and the poor have a common bond, The LORD is the maker of them all.

22:4 - The reward of humility *and* the fear of the LORD Are riches, honor and life.

25:6-7 - ⁶Do not claim honor in the presence of the king, And do not stand in the place of great men; ⁷For it is better that it be said to you, “Come up here,” Than that you should be put lower in the presence of the prince, Whom your eyes have seen.

27:1 - Do not boast about tomorrow, For you do not know what a day may bring forth.

27:2 - Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; A stranger, and not your own lips.

Examples of Humility:

Joseph - And Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I have had a dream, but no one can interpret it; and I have heard it said about you, that when you hear a dream you can interpret it.” Joseph then answered Pharaoh, saying, “It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer.” (Genesis 41:15, 16, NASB).

David - 16 Then David the king went in and sat before the LORD and said, “Who am I, O LORD God, and what is my house that Thou hast brought me this far? 17 “And this was a small thing in Thine eyes, O God; but Thou hast spoken of Thy servant's house for a great while to come, and hast regarded me according to the standard of a man of high degree, O LORD God. (1 Chronicles 17:16, 17, NASB).

Josiah - “Because your heart was tender and you humbled yourself before God, when you heard His words against this place and against its inhabitants, and *because* you humbled yourself before Me, tore your clothes, and wept before Me, I truly have heard you,” declares the LORD. (2 Chronicles 34:27, NASB).

Daniel - “But as for me, this mystery has not been revealed to me for any wisdom residing in me more than *in* any *other* living man, but for the purpose of making the interpretation

known to the king, and that you may understand the thoughts of your mind. (Daniel 2:30, NASB).

Elizabeth - "And how has it *happened* to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? (Luke 1:43, NASB).

John the Baptist - And he was preaching, and saying, "After me One is coming who is mightier than I, and I am not fit to stoop down and untie the thong of His sandals. (Mark 1:7, NASB).

The Centurion - But the centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy for You to come under my roof, but just say the word, and my servant will be healed. (Matthew 8:8, NASB). (As contrasted to Naaman! 2Ki 5:9-15)

Peter - But when Peter saw *this*, he replied to the people, "Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this, or why do you gaze at us, as if by our own power or piety we had made him walk? (Acts 3:12, NASB).

Paul - For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the wishing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not. (Romans 7:18, NASB).

I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. (Philippians 4:12, NASB).

II. Why Be Humble?

What are some reasons we should have humility? To receive grace. To be on the same side as God.

III. How Can Humility Impact Different Areas of Life?

Finances? W

Verse?

Work? W

Is there possibly a cost of humility in this area of life? _____

Verse?

Church? W

Is there possibly a cost of humility in this area of life? _____

Verse?

Faith? W

Is there possibly a cost of humility in this area of life? _____

Verse?

Leadership? W

How did Jesus, the greatest leader show humility in His leadership? _____

Is there possibly a cost of humility in this area of life? _____

Verse?

IV. How Can You Raise Children With Humility?

How do you raise children that are humble but still have proper self esteem? _____

What are your ideas to accomplish this? E

Our children's lack of humility is likely a reflection of our own. Is that true?

How can we practically and meaningfully demonstrate humility to our children? _____

Conclusion: How do you become more humble?

Ask: Are you a humble person?

How do you know if you are truly humble? Humility must be paired with gratitude!

How can you add humility to your character and life?

Whenever you have the urge to express pride in an accomplishment, stop. Think through what really happened that resulted in your accomplishment.

- Were others involved?
- Did others invest in you so you could be able?
- How was God involved?

Back up and give a more accurate account of the achievement.