

HUMILITY

(Paihia Family Church – 10/1/88 – EKB)

1. One of the keys God has given us to personal spiritual progress, and lasting Church unity is **humility**. *1Pet 5:5,6, Jam 4:10*.
2. In the “Roman world” of Jesus’ day **humility** was despised as weakness and pride was the way of honour and respect. In Roman society one third free men ruled two thirds slaves who had no personal rights. Pride of life was for free men, *Ac 22:22-29*, **humility** was for slaves.
3. **Jesus had a habit of turning worldly values upside down.** E.g.
 - a. The cross was ultimate shame and disgrace, but Jesus said in *Lk 9:23*, that to follow Him, we must choose the Cross as our way of life everyday.
 - b. Honourable revenge, for wrongs suffered was the respectable response in Roman society, but Jesus said, in *Mat 5:43-48*, that we are to love, bless, do good, and pray for our enemies.
 - c. He taught that the **humility** of the slave was what God was looking for in the redeemed. *Mat 18:3,4, Lk 22:27, Mat 20:28, Jn 13:14*.
4. Where there is pride, there is strife, contention, resentment, bitterness, division, unforgiveness, condemnation, *Pro 13:10,18, 1Cor 3:3, 1Tim 6:3-5*.
5. Pride is an iniquity we all have to deal with. It is the root of the old Adamic nature, we are naturally born with, which is corrupt, self-willed, self-seeking, self-centred, self-pleasing, independent, and self-reliant. Pride breeds rebellion. *Ezk 28:17, Job 41:34, Jer 13:9,10,15,17*.
6. Jesus’ disciples had great problems trying to cope with pride. In Jesus’ centre group it caused:
 - a. **Disputes.** *Mk 9:33-37* records their dispute as to who of them would be the greatest. In Roman society it was the slaves job to take care of the children. Even in our society the job of a “nanny” is not among the highest professional levels of esteem. But Jesus said, if you take care of a little child in His Name, (by faith in him), then you are receiving Jesus Himself, and the Father. *Mk 9:37*. Also consider *Col 3:22-24*.
 - b. **Position seeking.** *Lk 14:7-11* describes their action in grabbing the highest seats. *Mk 10:35-45* – James and John ask for the best seats next to Jesus in His Kingdom, and the others were angry.
 - c. **Rivalry.** Right after Jesus had eaten the Last Supper with them, and had instituted the communion, *Lk 22:14-20*, they began to dispute as to which of them should be considered the greatest, *Lk 22:24-27*.
7. **God’s LAW OF HUMILITY**, is universal, unchanging, and eternal.
 - a. Whoever exalts himself will be brought down, *Lk 14:11, Lk 18:14, Mat 23:12, Jam 4:10*. He who humbles himself will be exalted, *1Pet 5:6, Lk 14:11, Lk 18:14*.
 - b. God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble, *1Pet 5:5, Jam 4:6, Pro 3:34*.
8. **God wants us to show humility**, *Jn 13:1-14*, by taking the place of a servant to one another, to do the slaves job of refreshing one another. *Lk 22:27, Eph 4:1,2, Gal 5:13*.

9. **To forgive those who hurt us**, offend and sin against us. *Mat 18:21-25, Mat 6:14,15, Lk 11:4, Mk 11:25*. Refuse to judge, accuse, condemn, and seek revenge. *Mat 7:1, Rom 12:19*.
10. **To deny one's own will and to choose to do God's will**. *Jam 4:10, Lk 9:23, Phil 2:5-8, 1Pet 5:6*, also see *Phil 2:13, Good News Bible*.
11. **To be submissive to one another, in the fear of God**. *Eph 5:21, 1Pet 5:5*, (give examples).
12. **To be dependent upon God as a little child**. *Mat 18:1-4*.
13. **To tremble at God's Word**, and submit to His Word. *Is 66:1,2*.
14. **To confess, acknowledge my sins** to my wife/husband and ask her/him to pray for me, that God and His grace would set me free. *Pro 28:13, Jam 5:16, 1Jn 1:9, Rom 5:20*.
15. ***Micah 6:8* (KJV – margin)**. He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?