

HUMILITY: ITS THREE ASPECTS

(Rhema Family Church – 6/10/02 – EKB)

Introductory Scriptures: *Mat 18:1-4, 1Pet 5:5,6, Lk 18:9-14, Mat 20:25-28.*

Humility defined: is to take the place of a servant to God and to obey what He says. Also it is to take the place of a servant to others out of a secure identity, by the leading of the Holy Spirit.

A. Foundation

B. Operation

C. Reward

A. Foundation of Humility

The foundation of humility is to have a **secure, accurate, personal identity in Christ.**

Rom 12:3 describes this, “think of yourself accurately, as God has given to you **the measure of faith.**”

Do not think more. (pride).

Do not think less (false humility).

But think realistically and accurately. This is true humility.

This is to know:

Who we are in Christ – God’s Word says, “I am.”

This is general to every believer. See “Pastors’ Notes” No 25.

What we have been given in Christ – callings, gifts, ministries.

Rom 12:4-8 lists 7 different gifts one may be given by God.

1Cor 12:7-11, 28; Eph 4:11, mentions other gifts and ministries.

This is specific to each believer.

This way you have true “**significance**” of how important you are to fulfil God’s purposes, true **self worth** of how much God loves and values you, and true **security** in the keeping power of God.

Jesus is our example.

He had a secure accurate identity in God.

E.g. The many “I am’s” of John’s Gospel declare who He is, *Jn 6:35, 8:12, 10:7,11, 11:25, 14:6.*

E.g. Passages like *Jn 5:16-26* (v24)

Jn 8:52-59 (v58)

Jn 10:27-39 (v38)

E.g. *Phil 2:6, Jn 13:3,13,14, Lk 4:18,19.*

If you do not know your own identity in Christ, and the **calling, gifts and ministries** God has given to you, keep in the Word, keep in prayer, keep in the Spirit seeking God. Pray with other mature believers whom you love and trust. They will have prophetic revelations by the Spirit to confirm to you what God is saying. Also there are some study outlines available to help you.

B. Operation of Humility.

This is knowing how to use our identity and ministry which we have been given by God

The operation of humility is through **servanthood**, *Mat 20:28, Jn 4:34, Mk 14:36.*

Firstly to God, *Deut 8:2, Mic 6:8, Mat 7:21,24, Lk 6:46, Lk 9:23.*

Secondly to other people, *Jn 13:13-15, Lk 10:30-37, Is 58:6-7, Gal 5:13.*

Out of our **secure identity** in Christ and by **the leading of the Holy Spirit**, we are able to **humble ourselves to serve and obey God**, and **in the same way serve other people**.

Jesus is our Example, *Phil 2:5-8*.

Out of His secure identity of equality with God, v6, He laid aside His glory, v7, and **took upon Himself the form of a servant**, v7. As a man He humbled Himself, to the death of the Cross, v8.

When two of His disciples were trying to promote themselves, *Mat20:20-23*, *Mk 10:35-40*, and the ten others became upset with this, Jesus told them that greatness in **God's Kingdom comes through serving**. He said, "Even as **I did not come to be served, but to serve** and give My life a ransom for many," *Mat 20:28*.

On one occasion, His disciples were arguing about which one was the greatest among them. Jesus said, "He that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger, and he that is chief, as he that does serve, and I am among you as One who serves", *Lk 22:24-27*.

Another time He washed the disciples feet, *Jn 13:3-17*, and said, "**If I, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet**," meaning that we are to take the place of a servant to others.

His disciples asked Him, "Who is greatest in the Kingdom of heaven?" *Mat 18:1*. In v4 Jesus said, "**Whosoever humbles himself as this little child, the same is greatest** in the Kingdom of heaven."

We are humbling ourselves to God and His Word and serving others when we:

- a. **forgive others** that hurt us, *Mk 11:25,26*, *Mat 6:14,15*.
- b. **release them from our judgment**, *Jam 4:11,12*, *Lk 6:37*, *Mat 7:1*.
- c. **hand the problem over to God** to resolve, *1Pet 5:7*, *Ps 55:22*.
- d. **pray wholeheartedly for them**, *Lk 6:27,28*, *Mat 5:44*, as in *Col 1:1-9* or *Ac 26:18* as appropriate.

More than this, it also **invalidates the jurisdiction of satan**, so that He is unable to influence the people of God.

More than this, it guarantees that **God's grace is continually poured out on all of us**, *1Pet 5:5,6*.

More than this, out of our mercy and forgiveness towards others, our acts of **servanthood are powerful**. The Samaritan had compassion and mercy on his enemy, the Jew, lying half dead on the Jericho road, *Lk 10:33*. Out of his mercy flowed his powerful acts of love, *Lk 10:34,35*.

C. Rewards of Humility.

Jesus is our Example, *Phil 2:9-11*.

"Wherefore God has highly exalted Him and given Him a Name above every other name.

Humility and servanthood guarantees promotion, increase, and enlargement of our identity and ministry in Christ.

Jesus said, "Whoever exalts himself will be brought low, but **whoever humbles himself will be exalted**," *Lk 18:14*. His parable was of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector.

As we humble ourselves under the mighty Hand of God we are standing in line for the Lord to exalt us, *1Pet 5:6*.