

CHOOSING HUMILITY - AVOIDING PRIDE

(What is true Biblical Humility?)

(Coastal Faith Family Church - 7/12/97 - EKB)

1. One day two men went up to the temple to pray, one a “religious” man, the other “non religious.” The Pharisee prayed with himself, “I thank you, God I am not like other men. I do not steal from others by force, I am not a cheat or a liar, I do not commit sexual sins with somebody else’s wife, and I am not like that tax collector over there. I fast twice a week and I give tithes of all that I have.”

The “non-religious” tax man bowed his head, beat on his chest and said, “God be merciful to me a sinner!” Jesus said, “God accepted the tax collector but rejected the Pharisee.”
Lk 18:9-14.

2. The difference was, the Pharisee came in his pride and self-righteousness, but the tax man came in **humility**.

Pride is lifting ourselves up in our own opinions and words, and looking down on others with critical and judgmental thoughts. Jesus said, “Whoever humbles himself will be exalted, but whoever exalts himself will be brought down,” *Lk 18:14.*

3. *Ps 138:6* “God knows the proud afar off.”
Pro 6:16 “Six things the Lord hates.....(*v17*) a proud look.”
Pro 8:13 “The fear of the Lord is to hate evil; pride and arrogance.....”

4. But God highly values **humility**.
Is 66:1,2 “But to this man will I look, (for a dwelling place); him who is humble (NIV) and of a contrite spirit.”
Mat 18:1-4 They asked Jesus, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” and Jesus said, “Whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven,” *v4.*

5. “God resists the proud,” *Jam 4:6, 1Pet 5:5.* He opposes and hinders those who are proud. On the other hand God gives grace (mercy, truth and help) to the humble.
Jam 4:10 “Humble yourselves in the sight of God and He will lift you up.”

6. *Jam 4:11,12* goes another step, and says that when we speak evil or critically of another, and judge them in a condemning way, we are not only speaking evil of the person, but also we are speaking evil of God’s Law, which says, “Love your neighbour as you love yourself.”
Lev 19:18, Mat 7:12, Mk 12:31, Rom 13:10, Gal 5:14. In speaking judgmentally of another, we are despising God’s Law of love, and “riding roughshod” over it. God is not pleased.

7. So Jesus says, “Do not judge another person in a critical condemning way,” *Mat 7:1,2,* and *Rom 2:1,2,* says, “When we judge another we are condemning ourselves, because we also fall short in many ways.” *Jam 3:2.*

8. **WHAT IS TRUE BIBLICAL HUMILITY?**

Rom 12:3 gives us the **first key**. It says, “Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but think about yourself with sound, sober judgment, as God has dealt to you a measure of faith” or “the measure of faith” in the KJV.

The basis of true humility is having a secure self identity, of who you are in Christ. See No 91, No 127, No 25. We must see ourselves as God sees us in Christ, and walk with full assurance of who we are in Him. We are not to think **more** of ourselves, or **less** of

ourselves, than what God's Word says we are.

9. Jesus was totally confident in who He was/is now, in God. He said amazing things like, "I am the Bread of Life, he who comes to Me will never hunger". He said, "I am the Light of the World, he who follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the Light of Life." In all He said He was right and true, and walking **in full humility**, *Jn 6:35, Jn 8:12*.
10. In *Phil 2:6* it says of Jesus, "Who being in the form of God did not consider it robbery to be equal with God." This was/is His certain self-identity.
11. *Phil 2:7* gives us the **second key to true humility**. As the Holy Spirit guides us we make ourselves of no reputation, and take the place of a servant to God and others around us. We are then, ministers of Christ to them in faith, truth and love. Therefore true humility consists of:
 - a. having a true, accurate identity of ourselves in God and
 - b. choosing to take the place of a servant to others to minister Christ to them.
See Mat 20:28, Lk 22:27, Jn 13:13-15
12. Servanthood is expressed in *Gal 5:13* – "By love serve one another."
13. So repent of thinking or speaking critically about others and judging them, especially another family member, brother or sister in Christ or a church leader.
14. In No 143 we describe a testimony of how to refuse holding judgmental thoughts about someone in your family and releasing them to the blessing of God. What a difference it makes!
15. And lastly, we must avoid having pride against God, and lifting ourselves up against His Word. A few years ago, I was praying for two people I loved, who were going through a hard time. While praying I saw two graves, side by side which I knew were for them. My reaction for three days was to refuse this revelation and cry out, "No, God! Not that!" After three days God spoke very clearly to me the words of *Jeremiah 13:15-17*, "Hear and give ear, and do not be proud, for the Lord has spoken..." At this I repented and asked for forgiveness. God said to me, "The graves were not what you thought. I am bringing them through these trials to a new place of death to self!" This was a great relief to me.