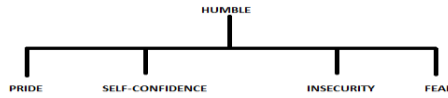


Humble Strength



* *There exists a false humility that validates the self-confident or fleshly encourages the insecure*

- *Pride Breeds entitlements because of self. (Brick)*
- *Self-confidence breeds reliance on self (Dried Clay)*
- ***Humility breeds total commitment to God (Fresh Clay)***
- *Insecurity breeds doubt because of self (Saturated clay)*
- *Fear breeds paralysis based on self (Water)*

In order to truly humble ourselves we must get our focus right - 2 Cor 5:16-17 - 16 So from now on we regard no one from a WORLDLY POINT OF VIEW. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. 17 Therefore, **if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation**; the old has gone, the new has come!

***Don't confuse real humility with the world's version. Worldly humility offers false vindication and empty compliments that ignore God.**

Why Is Humility necessary?

God honors those that are truly humble - Isa 66:1-2 – 1 This is what the LORD says:” Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. Where is the house you will build for me? Where will my resting place be? 2 Has not my hand made all these things, and so they came into being?” declares the LORD.” **This is the one I esteem: he who is humble and contrite in spirit, and trembles at my word.**

* **In order to understand humility, we must understand what humility is not**

PRIDE

Pride is SIN!! - Prov 21:4 -Haughty eyes and a proud heart, the lamp of the wicked, **are sin!**

Pride distance us from God - Ps 10:4-5 - 4 **In his pride** the wicked does not seek him; in all his thoughts there is no room for God. 5 His ways are always prosperous; he is haughty and your laws are far from him; he sneers at all his enemies.

Pride makes us think we are better than others - Rom 12:16 - **Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud**, but be willing to associate with people of low position. **Do not be conceited.**

Pride is a product of the world - 1 John 2:16-17 - 16 For everything in the world — the **cravings of sinful man**, the **lust of his eyes** and the **boasting of what he has and does** — comes not from the Father but from the world. 17 The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.

Check the love checklist - 1 Cor 13:4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, **it does not boast, it is not proud.**

“Pride” a characteristic of these wicked times. - 2 Tim 3:1-5 - 3:1 But mark this: There will be **TERRIBLE TIMES** in the last days. 2 People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 without love, unforgiving, slandering, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, 4 treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God- 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. **Have nothing to do with them.**

What Pride produces

Prov 11:2 when pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.

Prov 13:10 Pride only breeds quarrels, but wisdom is found in those who take advice.

Prov 29:23 A man's pride brings him low, but a man of lowly spirit gains honor.

What seems to be better, is not always “what is” better - Prov 16:19 **Better to be lowly in spirit and among the oppressed than to share plunder with the proud.**

Godly pride is pride in “God in you” - 2 Cor 5:12 - 12 We are not trying to commend ourselves to you again, but are giving you an opportunity to **take pride in us, so that you can answer those who take pride in what is seen rather than in what is in the heart.**

SELF-CONFIDENCE. -Believing and depending on self.

Example of the dangers of self confidence

Num 16:1-7 -Korah son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, and certain Reubenites — Dathan and Abiram, sons of Eliab, and On son of Peleth — **became insolent 2 and rose up against Moses.** With them were 250➔

→ Israelite men, well-known community leaders who had been appointed members of the council. 3 They came as a group to oppose Moses and Aaron and said to them, "You have gone too far! The whole community is holy, every one of them, and the Lord is with them. Why then do you set yourselves above the Lord's assembly?" 4 When Moses heard this, he fell facedown. 5 Then he said to Korah and all his followers: "In the morning the Lord will show who belongs to him and who is holy, and he will have that person come near him. The man he chooses he will cause to come near him. 6 You, Korah, and all your followers are to do this: Take censers 7 and tomorrow put fire and incense in them before the Lord. The man the Lord chooses will be the one who is holy. You Levites have gone too far!"

Num 16:22-33 - We see the God given outcome

We are to put no confidence in the flesh - Phil 3:3 For it is we who are the circumcision, we who worship by the Spirit of God, who glory in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh

What God looks for are those things which magnify him - 1 Cor 1:28-31 - 28 He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things — and the things that are not — to nullify the things that are, 29 **SO THAT no one may boast before him.** 30 IT IS BECAUSE OF HIM THAT YOU ARE IN CHRIST JESUS, who has become for us wisdom from God — that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. 31 Therefore, as it is written: "**Let him who boasts boast in the Lord.**"

INSECURITY - This is the act of doubt because of self and lack of confidence in self OR anything else.

Insecurity creates doubt and doubt is dangerous - James 1:5-8 - 5 If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. 6 But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. 7 That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.

Moses' insecurity angered God - Ex 4:10-14 - 10 Moses said to the Lord, "O Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue." 11 The Lord said to him, "Who gave man his mouth? Who makes him deaf or mute? Who gives him sight or makes him blind? Is it not I, the Lord?" 12 Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say." 13 But Moses said, "O Lord, please send someone else to do it." 14 Then the Lord's anger burned against Moses and he said, "What about your brother, Aaron the Levite? I know he can speak well.

FEAR – Allowing anything else other than God to dictate your actions

Fear is a trap - Prov 29:25 **Fear of man will prove to be a snare,** but whoever trusts in the LORD is kept safe.

Fear is not of God - 2 Tim 1:7 For God did not give us a spirit of timidity*, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.

- **Human fear** - deilia (di-lee'-ah); timidity: fear.
- **Respect** - phobeo (fob-eh'-o); to be in awe of, i.e. revere:

When I truly trust in God, He doesn't remove fearful situations, he helps me not to be fearful in any situation - Ps 27:3-4 - 3 Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, even then will I be confident. 4 One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek: **THAT I MAY DWELL IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE,** to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.

Fear could lead to our eternal demise. - Matt 25:24-30 – 24 "Then the man who had received the one talent came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. 25 **SO I WAS AFRAID** and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.' 26 "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! SO YOU KNEW that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? 27 Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest. 28 "'Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. 29 For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. 30 And **throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.**'

HUMILITY – Total acceptance of what i am based on God only!

WHY DO WE NEED TO BE HUMBLE

We are all of one body each part very equal in the sight of God - 1 Cor 12:14-26 - 14 Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. 15 If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. 16 And if the ear should say, →

→ "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? 18 But in fact **God has arranged the parts in the body, EVERY ONE OF THEM, just as he wanted them to be.** 19 If they were all one part, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts, but one body. 21 **The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!"** And the head **cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!"** 22 On the contrary, **those parts of the body that SEEM TO BE WEAKER ARE INDISPENSABLE,** 23 and the parts that we think are **LESS HONORABLE WE TREAT WITH SPECIAL HONOR.** And **the parts that are UNPRESENTABLE ARE TREATED WITH SPECIAL MODESTY,** 24 while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But **God has combined the members of the body** and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, 25 so that **there should be no division in the body,** but that **its parts should have EQUAL CONCERN FOR EACH OTHER.** 26 **If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.**

Because of the blessing that come with it

Matt 5:3 - "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the **kingdom of heaven.**

Matt 5:5 - Blessed are the meek, for they will **inherit the earth.**

It's part of how we receive God's Kingdom - Math 18:2-4 - 2 He called a little child and had him stand among them. 3 And he said: "I tell you the truth, **unless you change and become like little children, YOU WILL NEVER ENTER THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.** 4 Therefore, **whoever HUMBLER HIMSELF like this child** is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

We deserve worse - Lam 3:39 **Why** should any living man complain when punished for his sins?

Humility lets us know where we really are - Rom 12:3 **For by the grace given me** I say to every one of you: **Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought,** but rather **think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.**

God commands us to be humble with one another –

Eph 4:2 **Be completely humble** and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

1 Peter 5:5 Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, **clothe yourselves with humility** toward one another, because, "**GOD OPPOSES THE PROUD** but **GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.**"

WHAT EXACTLY IS HUMILITY?

Knowing that we are nothing without God

Why does God even consider us -Ps 8:4 -what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?

Apart from God, even our most basic needs are out of reach - Eccl 2:24-25 - 24 A man can do nothing better than to eat and drink and find satisfaction in his work. This too, I see, is from the hand of God, 25 **WITHOUT HIM, WHO CAN EAT OR FIND ENJOYMENT?**

We are NEVER the reason why - Rom 9:16 It **does not,** therefore, depend on man's desire or effort, but on **God's mercy.**

God is the one who plays; we are only the instrument He chooses to use- Rom 9:20-21 - 20 But who are you, O man, to talk back to God? "Shall what is formed say to him who formed it, 'Why did you make me like this?'" 21 **Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay** some pottery for noble purposes and some for common use?

Resting in the truth that God alone is our deliverance

Ps 69:29 I am in pain and distress; may your salvation, O God, protect me.

Prov 14:26 He who fears the Lord has a secure fortress, and for his children it will be a refuge.

Ps 118:8 It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man.

Ps 62:7-8 My salvation and my honor **depend on God;** he is my mighty rock, my refuge. 8 **Trust in him,** O people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge.

A way to get closer to God - Ezra 8:21 -Then I proclaimed a fast there at the river of Ahava, that we might humble ourselves before our God, to seek from Him the right way for us and our little ones and all our possessions.

Humility lets us realize God didn't give things to you because of your righteousness - Deut 9:4-6 - 4 After the LORD your God has driven them out before you, **do not say to yourself,** "The LORD has brought me here to take possession of this land because of my righteousness." No, it is on account of the wickedness of these nations →

→ that the LORD is going to drive them out before you. 5 **It is not because of your righteousness or your integrity that you are going in to take possession of their land;** but on account of the wickedness of these nations, the LORD your God will drive them out before you, to accomplish what he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. 6 **Understand, then, that it is not because of your righteousness that the LORD your God is giving you this good land to possess, for you are a stiff-necked people.**

It is a strong attribute of Jesus—

Matt 11:29-30 - 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for **I am gentle and humble in heart,** and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Phil 2:8 And being found in appearance as a man, **he humbled himself and became obedient to death** — even death on a cross!

Humility is a requirement of God - Mic 6:8 - He has showed you, O man, what is good. And **what does the LORD require of you?** To act justly and to love mercy and to **walk humbly with your God.**

Warning: Know the difference between Godly Humility and other humility -Col 2:18-19 - 18 Do not let anyone who delights in **false humility** and the worship of angels disqualify you for the prize. **Such a person goes into great detail about what he has seen,** and **his unspiritual mind puffs him up with idle notions.** 19 He has lost connection with the Head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow.

***Worldly humility either knows it has something and waits for others to affirm it, or only believes it when people confirm it. Real humility knows we are nothing without God, and everything about us must be affirmed by Him alone.**

THERE ARE BENEFITS THAT COME WITH HUMILITY

God sees the humble not the proud - Ps 138:6 - Though the Lord is on high, **he looks upon the lowly,** but the proud he knows from afar.

He Teaches and guides the humble - Ps 25:9 He guides **the humble** in what is right and teaches them his way.

We receive God's answers through humility not intelligence - Luke 10:21-21 At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have **hidden these things from the wise and learned,** and **revealed them to little children.** Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure.

If you have truly humbled yourself the outcome will be true contentment - Phil 4:12-13 - 12 I know what it is to **be in need,** and I know what it is **to have plenty.** I have learned the **secret of being content in any and every situation,** whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. 13 **I can do everything through him who gives me strength.**

Humble yourself and God will lift you in his time-1 Peter 5:6 **Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand,** that he may lift you up in due time.

Moses' Humility allowed him to speak face to face to God - Num 12:3-9 - 3 (Now Moses **was a very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth.**) 4 At once the Lord said to Moses, Aaron and Miriam, "Come out to the Tent of Meeting, all three of you." So the three of them came out. 5 Then the Lord came down in a pillar of cloud; he stood at the entrance to the Tent and summoned Aaron and Miriam. When both of them stepped forward, 6 he said, "Listen to my words: "When a prophet of the Lord is among you, I reveal myself to him in visions, I speak to him in dreams. **7 But this is not true of my servant Moses; he is faithful in all my house. 8 With him I speak face to face, clearly and not in riddles; he sees the form of the Lord.** Why then were you not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?" 9 The anger of the Lord burned against them, and he left them.

You will know you are humble when...

- You strive to please God & won't fear approaching God
- Always seek God
- Will really listen and obey God
- Capable of learning
- Will spiritually grow
- Capable of teaching
- Will correctly rebuke and correct
- Can be persecuted & criticized

Final Thought - Phil 2:3-7 -3 **Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.** 4 Each of you should look **not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.** 5 Your **attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:** 6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, 7 but **made himself nothing,** taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.