

Proverbs Men

“Seeking Wisdom, Trusting God”



Lesson 1 - HUMILITY

Proverbs 11:2 **When pride comes, then comes disgrace,
but with humility comes wisdom.**

Proverbs 15:33 **The fear of the LORD teaches a man wisdom,
and humility comes before honor.**

Proverbs 22:4 **Humility and the fear of the LORD
bring wealth and honor and life.**

1.0 What is Humility?

Define humility? _____

How would a humble person appear? _____

Biblical Definition: A personal quality in which an individual shows dependence on God and respect for other persons.

What God desires most is not sacrifices but a humble spirit. (Psalm 51:17)

- A humble spirit understands our sinfulness before a Holy God
- Obedience to God
- Submission to God

Jesus provided the best example of humility. He was obedient to God – even to death. He loved people – the blind man begging; the woman caught in adultery; the Roman Centurion who asked healing for his servant. In the New Testament, humility is often associated with “meekness”. Yet Jesus overturned the tables of the money changers. The Greek world, like our world, abhorred the quality of humility or meekness, but Word of God honors the humble.

Why does our world hate “humility”? _____

What is the opposite of humility? _____

What does that do to our relationship with God? _____

Define pride? _____

What does a prideful person look like? _____

Pride is undue confidence in and attention to one's own skills, accomplishments, state, possessions, or position. It is the opposite of humility.

Proverbs 6:16-19 states "There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to Him:

- **haughty eyes," (Pride)**
- **a lying tongue, (Lying)**
- **hands that shed innocent blood, (Evil Doing)**
- **a heart that devises wicked schemes, (Impure heart)**
- **feet that are quick to rush into evil, (Foolishness)**
- **a false witness who pours out lies (False Testimony)**
- **and a man who stirs up dissension among brothers. (Creates disunity)**

Hate is not usually a word associated with God. God is Love. Look at the things God hates. Listed first is pride because pride separates us from God. Pride is rebellion against God because it attributes to self the honor and glory due to God alone. Proud persons do not think it necessary to ask forgiveness because they do not admit their sinful condition.

God loves humility - recognizing our dependence on Him and recognizing others also as children of God.

What did Jesus teach? _____

Matthew 18: 1-4: **At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"**

²He called a little child and had him stand among them. ³And he said: "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

Pastor Rick Warren defines "humility" as teachable. Are you humble? Are you teachable? Are you willing to listen to God thru His Word and the Holy Spirit? Are you willing to shed your old ways for God's way?

2.0 Examples – Humility Hall of Fame

2.1 Old Testament

2.1.1 Noah – a Man of God

Genesis 6:9-22: Commitment - Obedience

Genesis 9:1-3: Promise Reward

Peer Pressure - He was alone – the rest of the world was evil; forgot God as our Creator.
Commitment - It took Noah 120 years to build the ark.

Faith – It had never rained before.

God judged the world.

Was Noah a wimp? He had an inner courage.
Was he humble? Was he teachable? Absolutely.

Noah became the 2nd father to the world.

Think about the differences between Adam and Noah.

2.1.2 Moses – The Humblest of all Men

Numbers 12: ¹Miriam and Aaron began to talk against Moses because of his Cushite wife, for he had married a Cushite. ² "Has the LORD spoken only through Moses?" they asked. "Hasn't he also spoken through us?" And the LORD heard this.

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.

Moses was the humblest of all men. He became the Father of the Israelites. God spoke with him face to face. God gave Moses the Ten Commandments. What attributes did Moses have that made him the humblest of all men?

2.2 New Testament

Paul clearly states that he has been humble and shares how to imitate Christ's humility.

Acts 20:17: **From Miletus, Paul sent to Ephesus for the elders of the church. ¹⁸When they arrived, he said to them: "You know how I lived the whole time I was with you, from the first day I came into the province of Asia. ¹⁹I served the Lord with great humility and with tears, although I was severely tested by the plots of the Jews. ²⁰You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house. ²¹I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus.**

²²"And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. ²³I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. ²⁴However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace.

Imitating Christ's Humility

Philippians 2:1-4: **If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ²then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. ³Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. ⁴Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.**

3.0 Conclusion

Deuteronomy 8:3: **He (God) humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your fathers had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.**

Again, we see the word teachable and humility. Remember Jesus' response when Satan offered him bread?

Matthew 4:4: **Jesus answered, "It is written: Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God."**

To be a child of God, we must be humble each and every day. We do this by:

- Recognizing our dependence on God; basing our lives on His Holy Word.
- Treating others better than ourselves
- Being teachable

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