

Scripture: Philippians 2:1-10

Notes: Humility is a surrender of the authority to guide my life to Jesus. When we get saved the Holy Spirit comes to live within to teach us the truth about Jesus. Today we are going to look at humility in practice.

I. Lower our opinion of ourselves. Sometimes because of our natural self-centeredness we take ourselves to seriously believing our opinions are the only ones that are right. Any time anyone disagrees with us we take it as a personal attack on us. There are areas in our lives we need to work on in order to be Christ-like.

1. By not being critical of others or looking down on them. This is really a matter of pride. There is racial pride, religious pride, economic pride, or nationality pride. A great example of this is found in **Luke 18:12-14** *The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.* The Pharisee thought he was better than the publican because of his desire to follow the rituals and rules of religion. The publican truly repented because his heart was broken because he realized his sin had broken his fellowship with God.

2.) By not having an exalted opinion of ourselves. **Philippians 2:3-4** *Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.* This is where we don't insist on everything being done our way. **Romans 12:3** *For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.* Since grace is given to everyone who is a believer and even the gifts we have are given to us by grace we have nothing to boast about.

3.) By realizing that we are not always right. **Jeremiah 10:23** *O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: It is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.* Have you ever met somebody who thought they were always right. They may be right most of the time about a lot of things. When I think of this point it reminds me of someone with an unteachable spirit. Jeremiah shows us the danger of that attitude He says God directs the right paths. We need him to direct our paths. **Proverbs 3:5-7** *Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; And lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, And he shall direct thy paths.* Be not wise in thine own eyes: Fear the LORD, and depart from evil.

II. Realize the Importance of submission to Humility **1 Peter: 5-6** *Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.* ⁶ *Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:* The idea is concerns submission to spiritual authority. Remember we just talked about a critical attitude. Sometimes we a critical attitude against people God has placed in our lives to be our spiritual teachers. **Hebrews 13:17** *Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.* The pastor is called by God to watch over the souls of his congregation. His primary responsibility is to preach and teach the Bible, The responsibility of the congregation is to hear, listen, and apply the truth as it is confirmed in your mind by the Holy Spirit. If you quench the Spirit you will be accountable. If the Pastor teaches something wrong he is accountable. The

warning for believers is don't make the Pastor say at the judgment seat of Christ; I taught them sound doctrine but they would not listen. Submission responsibilities are passed to the elders as well. The elders of the church are to teach spiritual maturity to the younger. God will resist the unteachable elder who has an arrogant attitude. When Jesus says be humble He means realize that all you have is because of Jesus.

A) The biggest obstacle to submission is pride. Dr. Wiresbe: God resists the proud because God hates the sin of pride (Prov. 6:16–17; 8:13). It was pride that turned Lucifer into Satan (Isa. 14:12–15). It was pride—a desire to be like God—that stirred Eve to take the forbidden fruit. “The pride of life” is an evidence of worldliness (1 John 2:16). The only antidote to pride is the grace of God, and we receive that grace when we yield ourselves to Him. The evidence of that grace is that we yield to one another. Submission is an act of faith We don't really want to let God or anybody else be in control.

B). God's grace is applied when we are humble. 1 Peter 5:5b-6 for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. ⁶ *Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:* Notice he says that specifically God gives grace to the humble. God will exalt us; that means, lift us up, encourage us and empower us. The power and importance of the exaltation is given by grace and hindered by pride. **Verse (7) *Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.*** Flows from our mind as we humbly acknowledge that God is sovereign; He is in control of our lives. It becomes natural for our to cast our cares to Him. Pride will get in the way.

III. Follow the example of Jesus Philippians 2:5-7 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: Jesus is our example. Dr. Gutzke comments: *The word mind means the total complex of ideas that is found in the consciousness. This means we are to let the ideas which Christ held govern our thinking.* Jesus was God in the flesh yet he took the place of a servant. He could easily look down on folks who were sinners. In order to access and apply the mind of Christ in my life I must submit my will to him as I deny myself by taking up my cross daily. We do need to understand the mind of Christ is spiritually revealed to us. **1 Corinthians 2:9-10; 16** But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.....For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ. Our world is a place where folks insist upon our rights. Jesus gives us an example of how to live a life of humility.

1. Jesus taught that obedience to the will of God is an act of humility. (7-8) But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. The phrase became obedient unto death does not mean he once was disobedient. It means that every time he faced a decision concerning sin or obeying God's will He always made the right choice. Jesus was obedient even to the point of death on the cross. That was the length Jesus went to. **Dr. Gutzke has another idea:** *If Christ is to walk with me, if it is to be “Christ in you the hope of glory,” a change must take place in me. From the inside I will be moved to humble myself, to become obedient to death, which means self-denial, “even to death of the cross” in which I actually deny myself.* God's will in a church is for its members to work together to bring glory to God.