



Volume 15 Issue 35

August 30, 2020

HUMILITY

What does it mean to be humble? There are many opinions in response to this question. There are many extremes to the idea of humility; some of which are only disguised pride, and others are so extreme that they would not even allow one to respond to the question. Needless to say, there is a lot of confusion on this matter. Is there a way to know for certain? We know that humility is an expectation of God; therefore there must be a way of gaining the proper knowledge. We will learn in life that humility affects every part of a person's life: their honesty and integrity, their friendliness, and even their effectiveness as a servant of God. Let's see if we can come to some defining conclusions about humility. Let's consider the purpose of humility, then some things that are "not" humility, and finally true humility.

What is the Purpose of Humility? Without humility we

have no hope of direction. The wisdom of the Proverbs, teach us to acknowledge God and only then will He direct us (Prov. 3:1-18). The willingness to admit we need Him is the beginning of the relationship that God desires with us.

The humble know they need; the proud refuse help. The proud say, "Who is God to teach me?" Or, "Why should I listen to you?" The humble say, "Who am I without God?" and "I need God's help". The proud will not listen and therefore will never find the rewards of God's word but the humble know they need to do God's will (James 1:22-25).

We need to be humble because we have nothing without God. His rewards are for those who are humble enough to submit to Him. As we are told in James 4:6, "God resists the proud, But gives

grace to the humble." Then also in 1Peter 5:6, "Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time..."

Not Humility: Self-loathing is not humility. Some have come to the conclusion that we are to hate our life to prove our humility. This is an unjustifiable conclusion. God's word does not call for us to hate ourselves or this life. We should not hate what God has given us (Acts 17:24-27). We should not refuse His advice—to be joyful (John 15:11; Gal. 5:22; 1Thes. 5:16).

Denial of one's abilities is not humility. Some are afraid to claim their talents—denying their own abilities. This is not what God expects. God wants us to do what we can do, the best we can do it (Rom. 12:6-8). When we use our abilities well, it is not for our pride, it is in recognition of what God has provided—to Him be the glory (1Peter 5:11; 2Peter 3:18)

Empty words are not humility. Talking great swelling words about our humility is not humility. Neither is being hyper-critical of self. Rather we should understand that humility is truly better seen than heard. Some pray and say that their righteousness is as "filthy rags" or that they are "worms". This is a misuse of Isaiah 64:6 that

refers to man's attempts to justify himself under the Old Covenant—not our current redemption under the New. By saying these things they are denying the great value God has placed on us. God paid a great price to ransom us from our sins (Matt. 20:28; John 3:16). We are not "worms" we are redeemed by the blood of the Lamb (1Peter 1:18-19). True Humility: Humility is knowing who you are. A real part of God's creation (Acts 17:26-27). You are the creature—God is the Creator (Psalm 100:1-3). We must know that we need God (Prov. 14:12; Jer. 10:23). This attitude was definitely missing in Pharaoh—when he refused to submit to God (Ex. 10:3). His great confidence was in self, saying, "Who is the Lord, that I should hear His voice...?" (Ex. 5:2). This teaches us that true humility is full submission to God.

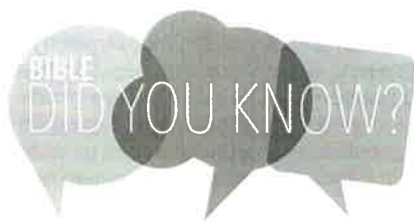
True Humility is willingness to do God will. If we are going to submit to God and be a doer of His will we must admit our abilities and use them (Eph. 2:10; 2Tim. 3:16-17). We must strive to meet God's expectations with the highest limits of our ability—this is active humility (Matt. 13:8). The pursuit of active humility is

not personal glory—it is willingness to use your abilities for the cause of Christ (Gal. 2:20).

True humility is remembering God. Knowing that without His blessings we could not live (Matt. 5:45). Knowing that without His hope we are lost (Rom. 5:6-10). Knowing that without His direction we cannot make our way home (John 14:6). All that we are; all that we are capable of; is because of God—to God be the glory (1Peter 5:11)

Conclusion: Humility is a trait of character not easily owned. We must work our way toward humility in order to receive the promised rewards of God's instructions. There are many things that people do, supposing them to be acts of humility. These things cannot take the place of truly acknowledging our need for God. Many are too proud to submit to God's expectations. Many have prided themselves on coming up with a better way than God. Humility tells us, there is no other way. Today do you know who you are and what you need? Right now is the time to know you are a valuable part of God's creation and you need to acknowledge your Creator. Will you seek Him now? The opportunity to

obey the gospel plan is yours today. – Sean Sullivan



“The plans of the heart belong to man, but the answer of the tongue is from the LORD. All the ways of a man are clean in his own sight, but the LORD weighs the motives. Commit your works to the LORD and your plans will be established. The LORD has made everything for its own purpose, even the wicked for the day of evil. Everyone who is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD; assuredly, he will not go unpunished. By lovingkindness and truth iniquity is atoned for, and by the fear of the LORD one keeps away from evil.”
Proverbs 16:1-6

FIFTH SUNDAY PHOTOS

Every fifth Sunday of the month, we try to highlight some of great things happening around our congregation that were captured through photography. If you happen to get a good picture of one of those great things, please feel free to post it on our Facebook page, tag us on Instagram (@wellsburgchurch), tweet us at @wellsburgchurch, or e-mail us at minister@wellsburgchurchofchrist.com with a little description of what is happening in the picture.



Addison came home to a beautiful bouquet of flowers and lots of well wishes and prayers after a rough time at the hospital. God bless you!



Eric stays plenty busy picking many of his delicious tomatoes along with so many other daily chores on the farm. Be sure to congratulate him for earning the honor of Farmer of the Year!



We rejoiced with the angels in Heaven when Toby Henthorn was baptized into Christ! Welcome to the family, brother Toby, and God bless you as you continue to seek the Lord!



It turned out to be a beautiful day for a wedding on Caleb and Amber's special day! We are so happy for these two sweet newlyweds and wish them the very best as they start their new life together in North Carolina. God bless you both!