

HUMILITY

Since becoming a Christian, I continue to struggle with sin, but I am learning and praying over it and one of the lessons refreshed in my mind currently is HUMILITY.

WHAT IS HUMILITY

THE DICTIONARY VIEW

From the Webster's Dictionary, the adjective Humble is defined as having or showing awareness of one's defect; not proud; not self-assertive.

Or Low in condition or rank

THE BIBLICAL VIEW

Lowliness, accommodation, peace at any cost, avoiding conflicts,

OTHER WISE DEFINITIONS

It is a conscience which is not self-glorifying

How is it consummated

It is consummated when man entertains no thoughts that he is wise

What is its crown

When man thinks that no one is more sinful than him and when he realises he is the lowest of all said Saint John el-Tabarsi

Humility is to deem all mankind better than you, being certain in your heart that you are more sinful than all said Saint Anthony the Great

The Best saying so far for me is this one

A little Humility is Arrogance

FOUR MAIN CHARACTERISTICS OF HUMILITY

- 1. THE HUMBLE ALWAYS SAYS SORRY

Humble people accept their imperfection and are quick to say SORRY

They don't think they are so right that they do not require God's forgiveness.

In short, they accept mistakes.

Humble Christian understand the meaning of their confessions at the start of the service

The humble does not lose face by admitting mistake in front of others

The Humble does not make excuse for his or her action or blame others for it

- 2. THE HUMBLE DOES NOT TRY TO IMPRESS OTHERS

The Humble does not need to be boastful or over confident

Those who use Humility accept to be ordinary because God likes the ordinary.

When we were babies we did things to earn other people's approval and favour. Unfortunately, not many of us seem to grow out of this behaviour; we are always wondering about what other people think of our actions rather whether those actions are pleasing to God

Surely, if we are happy and contented with ourselves then there is no need striving for worldly success and approval

In addition, God loves us unconditionally

To be humble is not a negative thing; it is something that can rather empower

Humility allows us to be at peace with ourselves and also with God

“May I never boast” said Paul except, in the cross of Jesus Christ Galatians 6:14

- 3. THE HUMBLE IS PREPARED TO LEARN

They don't behave as if they know it all.

They don't pretend they have the wisdom of King Solomon and therefore need no correction

The Humble accepts all criticisms directed at them, knowing it is only God's final judgement that counts

- 4. THE HUMBLE IS NOT BOASTFUL

Humble people don't criticise, they are gentle with other people's failures. Only the proud and the boastful think they don't make mistakes and therefore intolerant of other people's weaknesses

I don't know about you; I think fall under each of the 4 character traits I have just enumerated. It means I am not humble.

But I take consolation in the fact that I am sinner, forgiven by God because he loves me.

We can't be Humble on our own; we have to ask God to give us the permanent Humility we seek.

A LITTLE HUMOUR ABOUT BOASTFULNESS

The Boasting Boys

Three boys are in the schoolyard bragging about their fathers.
The first boy says,

My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a poem, they give him 50.

The second boy says, That's nothing. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a song, they give him 100.

The third boy says, I got you both beat. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a sermon. And it takes eight people to collect all the money

WHY should we Christians humble ourselves

Because God commands us to do so.

Let us look at some of the Biblical Texts which support this assertion

Philippians 2:6-11

Your attitude should be the same as Jesus Christ

Who, being in very nature[a] God,

did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,

7 but made himself nothing,

taking the very nature[b] of a servant,

being made in human likeness.

8 And being found in appearance as a man,

he humbled himself

and became obedient to death

even death on a cross

9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place

and gave him the name that is above every name,

10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Father.

This verse tells us that Jesus **Humiliated Himself**. Jesus did not consider Glory as something to be grasped but was willing to empty himself, became poor and was despised for our sake. He did not Lord it over us.

2 Corinthians 4:5

For we preach not for ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves, as your servants, for Jesus Christ's sake.

The essence of this verse is that:

Humility is an outward expression of an inward heart; it is not a personal trait.

In other words, Humility is an outward aura of a consecrated obedience to God; it is not self denigrating or putting self down

When we come to Christ we gain a proper and enduring self-worth because we soon discover that we are the worst of the sinners but we are equally redeemed

Hallelujah

Philippians 2:8

And being in a fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even death of the cross

Being humble does not mean we live a life without confrontation.

FAR, FROM IT.

It may lead us into trouble just as it can take us out of trouble

Humility according to this verse is the willingness to be obedient to the will of the Father, regardless of our personal cost

If Jesus was humble enough to be obedient to Death on the cross, why should we His followers do otherwise

Luke 14:8-10

“When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honour, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited. 9 If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, ‘Give this man your seat.’ Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place. 10 But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, ‘Friend, move up to a better place.’ Then you will be honoured in the presence of all your fellow guests.

It is always an Honour to be invited to a wedding but it is the easiest place to get it all wrong.

Only pride will make us assume a position of honour, we are not entitled to.

The saying "Pride goes before a fall" comes to mind here.

Greatness in Humility assumes that others are worthy more than self

And true greatness does not need to wait long for recognition

"Truly great men are noted not for the company they keep but for the company that keeps them" said one great preacher

Luke 14:11

"For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

Is it not better to nurture a humble self-respect than to nurture a proud self-esteem? think so.

Humility Scriptures

Proverbs 22:4

Humility and the fear of the LORD bring wealth and honour and life.

Luke 17:10

So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.' "

James 4:10

“Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.”

Psalms 18:27

You save the humble
but bring low those whose eyes are haughty.

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

Isaiah 57:15

For this is what the high and lofty One says—
he who lives forever, whose name is holy:

"I live in a high and holy place,
but also with him who is contrite and lowly in spirit,
to revive the spirit of the lowly

and to revive the heart of the contrite.

Romans 12:10

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honour one another above yourselves

Philippians 2:3

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.

1 Corinthians 1:28-29

He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him.

1 Corinthians 3:7

So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.

2 Corinthians 4:5

For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.

CONCLUSION

It is not easy being humble as my sermon tends to suggest; it is very much more difficult in practice. True and permanent Humility comes from GOD.

If we look within ourselves honestly, there are probably a lot of things, which are not good. We can change these things

when we look at the life of Jesus. As he is the best model of Humility we can find.

Through the power of His redeeming grace, we are set free from self-conceit, as well as self-consciousness and are enabled to do the will of God, develop our abilities, use our talents, experience success and all the while give all the glory to God.

Let me leave you with text

Philippians 2:5-7

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