

## Clothed with Humility

### Int.

1. Aim: To explain what humility means to a Christian.
2. 1 Peter 5:5-7 "Be clothed with humility"
3. What would be the first thing that would come to your mind if I said to you, "You need to dress like a Christian?"
  - a. Many of you would begin to think about the subject of modesty, and the type of clothing that we as Christians ought to wear.
  - b. As Christians we need to be concerned about modesty. Paul wrote: "in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, 10 but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works."(1 Tim. 2:9,10).
  - c. You know that this principal also applies to men.
  - d. We, as Christians, ought to dress in such a way that the main thing people notice about our appearance is not our clothing, or the lack of it.
4. However, even though Christians are to be concerned about modesty, modesty is not what I had in mind when I asked you the question, "What would come to your mind if I said to you, You need to dress like a Christian?"
5. The type of clothing that I have in mind today is "humility."
6. "Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." 6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, 7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you." 1 Pet. 5:5-7 NKJV

7. I want to look at three things concerning "humility."
  - a. Some Characteristics of Humility;
  - b. What God Does For The Humble; and
  - c. The Result of Humility.

## Discussion

### I. SOME CHARACTERISTICS OF HUMILITY

- A. When we are clothed with humility, we will recognize our spiritual needs.
  1. Jesus would say, "...Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 5:3).
  2. This verse could easily be paraphrased, "...blessed are the humble..." or "...Blessed are those not filled with pride..."
  3. When we have the idea that we are too good for God, or that God is lucky to have us on His side, we are not clothed with humility.
    - a. In our text, Peter said that God resists the proud.
    - b. This is a continual resisting. God continues to resist anyone who continues to be without humility.
  4. Talking about the elders in the context
    - a. Feed the flock - not as lord's over the flock
    - b. Be clothed with humility -- true for all members - all of you —
    - c. Pride and vainglory always causes trouble in the church.
    - d. Leaders - elders - as all members are to be clothed with humility - not puffed up with pride - not dictators.

5. You and I are not worthy of God's love, or His grace, but if we will clothe ourselves with humility, and see our need for God, and respond to his love and grace, in His appointed way, He will forgive us.
- B. When we are clothed with humility, we will be less judgmental of others because we see our own failures, and realize that we are nothing without God.
1. Perhaps that is the reason we seem to be more sympathetic with people who struggle with the same problems we have.
  2. We seem to have more mercy toward others when we realize that we have problems ourselves.
  3. Matt. 7:1ff - "Judge not, that ye be not judged."
  4. When we have humility we will have the proper view of our fellow man and be sympathetic to him. They like us have our weaknesses and will have some failures.
- C. When we are clothed with humility, it becomes easier to change the things that are wrong in our lives.
1. Pride always defends "my way" as the right way. We have the attitude that if something is going to change, it's not me! It's my way or no way!
  2. But, when we are clothed with humility, we will see our spiritual needs, we will be less judgmental of others, and we will change the things that are wrong in our lives.

#### D. Humility is not "Voluntary Humility"

1. Col. 2:18 "Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,"
2. That phrase "Voluntary Humility" is translated as:
  - a. "False Humility" - In NKJV
  - b. "self-abasement" in RSV
  - c. "Asceticism" in ESV
3. The world Humility means "lowliness of mind"
4. Paul is evidently condemning certain self-imposed acts of mortification of the body as a service to God.<sup>1</sup>
  - a. Such acts would be the outward evidence of a false humility - a perverted lowliness.
  - b. When humility becomes self-conscious, it ceases to have any meaning at all.
  - c. Self conscious humility is really pride in disguise.
5. True humility is not a low estimate of our abilities or worth, as so many people seem to think. The humble man does not think of himself more highly than he ought to think or more lowly than he ought to think.
  - a. If you act like the one talent man of the Lord's parable, the world will call you humble.
  - b. The one talent man was afraid that he might fail. People might criticize him if he tried and failed. People might even laugh at him if he tried and failed.
  - c. So he just did not try. He buried his talent.

6. The conceited person thinks of himself more highly than he ought to think.
    - a. The person with false humility thinks of himself more lowly than he ought to think.
    - b. But both of these people are thinking primarily about themselves.
    - c. The humble person does not think primarily about himself. His life is centered in others.
    - d. Humility is not belittling ourselves. When we continually call attention to how small, worthless and insignificant we are that is not humility.
  7. Paul's statement in Colossians 2:18 condemning "voluntary humility" would suggest that true humility is involuntary.
    - a. It is spontaneous. It is not a virtue to be achieved by sitting down and deciding, "Today I am going to be humble."
    - b. Humility flows naturally as an effect or a result from other things in Christian living.
- E. Did you ever hear about the man who won a medal for humility and then had it taken away because he wore it?
1. There is such a thing as being proud (in the sinful sense) of our humility.
  2. Oh, Yeah? Well, I'll bet I'm twice as humble as your are !

## **II. NOTICE WHAT GOD DOES FOR THE HUMBLE**

- A. Peter stated that God "...giveth grace to the humble."
1. Someone may say, "I thought the Bible taught that God's grace appeared to all men."
  2. God's grace has appeared unto all men (Titus 2:11). However, just because God's grace has appeared doesn't mean that God has given His grace to every man. God gives His grace to the HUMBLE.
  3. If a person will humble himself, and be obedient to the God of heaven, God will give him grace. However, if a person will not humble himself before God, but remains proud and arrogant, God will reject him.
- B. Peter also stated that God will exalt the humble in due time.
1. When Saul was small, or humble, in his own eyes, God made him a great king and leader to the children of Israel. When he became great in his own eyes, God rejected him as king. I & II Samuel
  2. When David was a man of humility, God blessed him. But, when David became proud and numbered the people, God brought curses upon him. II Samuel.
  3. God exalts the humble, and rejects the proud.
    - a. You and I need to understand that God is the only one who knows when it is the proper time to exalt a person.
    - b. A part of being humble is accepting God's time table.
  4. God will give grace to, and exalt, the humble.

### **III. NOTICE THE RESULT OF HUMILITY**

- A. Humility will allow us to cast our cares upon the Lord - 1 Peter 5:7 "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you."
1. Proud men can't and won't accept help from anyone, even God. They pile the weight of the world upon their shoulders, and they are determined that no one will help them carry their burdens.
  2. They try to justify their pride by saying, "I might as well do it by myself, because nobody cares about me anyway." Feeling sorry for yourself is not being clothed with humility.
  3. Humility allows us to understand that there is a limit to the amount of burdens we can bear, and it allows us to cast our burdens and worries upon the Lord.
- B. Why? Because humility will let us realize that God cares for us. When the world turns against us, God still loves and cares for us and He wants to help us with our burdens.
1. We can cast our cares upon God - Matthew 11:28-30 "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."
  2. We can depend on others to bear our burdens with us - Galatians 6:2 "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ."
  3. We can allow God to use us to bear the burdens of our brethren - Galatians 6:1 "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted."

## **CONCLUSION**

1. Are you clothed with humility?
2. Have you humbled yourself before the God of heaven and obeyed His will?
3. If not, why not humble yourself this very day:
  - (1) See your need for God,
  - (2) Allow Him to give you His grace, in His appointed way, and
  - (3) Cast your cares upon Him, because He cares for you.
4. Those who are humble are teachable - like play dough, soft, moldable, willing to learn.
5. "Behold, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are ye in mine hand, O house of Israel."  
Jer. 18:6b
6. People who are filled with pride are like clay that has hardened. They are not teachable because they feel that they know all they need to know.
7. Peter's advice was that we should be "clothed with humility" "Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." 6  
Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, 7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you." 1 Pet.5:5-7 NKJV
8. Jas. 4:10 "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up."

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### End Notes

1. Counseling Column by Flavil R. Yeakley, Jr. Christian Worker Feb. 1977 P. 7

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Sermon by Arthur Pigman - Sunday morning - June 28, 2009  
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