

# HUMILITY

Humility is the quality or condition of being humble. Humble people are usually marked by their meekness and modesty in attitude or behaviour; they are not proud or arrogant.

To receive the grace of God in abundance, one needs to show humility to God. ... for "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble." 1 Peter 5:5

## HUMILITY AS A REQUIREMENT

He has showed you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and **to walk humbly with your God?** - Micah 6:8

With a lowly heart, God will show you the right path. Psalms 25:9 reads - He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

Paul in his account to the elders in Ephesus said – "... Ye know, from the first day that I came into Asia, after what manner I have been with you at all seasons, serving the LORD with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and temptations, which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews:" Acts 20:18-19.

## HUMILITY WILL TURN AWAY THE WRATH OF GOD

Humility often turns away the wrath of God.

"But Hezekiah rendered not again according to the benefit done unto him; for his heart was lifted up: therefore there was wrath upon him, and upon Judah and Jerusalem. Notwithstanding Hezekiah humbled himself for the pride of his heart, both he and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the wrath of the LORD came not upon them in the days of Hezekiah." 2 Chronicles 32:25-26

## ASSOCIATE WITH HUMBLE PEOPLE

Because of the wisdom they possess, (... with humility comes wisdom- Proverbs 11:2), the scripture recommends that we associate with humble people.

"Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; never be conceited." Romans 12:16

## CHRIST'S EXAMPLE

The examples shown by Christ are remarkable.

- At birth he was laid in a manger - "And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn." - Luke 2:7. Imagine, there was no room for a man whose Father's house has many mansions (John 14:2).
- His native town was a small place. Micah 5:2 - But thou, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.
- He rode on an ass instead of a chariot plated with gold- "Tell ye the daughter of Zion, Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass". And the disciples went, and did as Jesus commanded them, And brought the ass, and the colt, and put on them their clothes, and they set him thereon.' Matthew 21:5-7
- In the form of God but decided to come as a man. See Philippians 2:3-10.

- He ate with sinners and tax collectors; no discrimination. ‘And as he sat at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Jesus and his disciples. And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"’ - Matthew 9:10-11

### **HUMILITY IN SERVICE /THE BODY OF CHRIST**

Aaron was Moses' older brother, he served under Moses.

Exodus 6:20 - Amram took to wife Joch'ebed his father's sister and she bore him Aaron and Moses, the years of the life of Amram being one hundred and thirty-seven years.

**Elders:** Tend the flock of God that is your charge, not by constraint but willingly, not for shameful gain but eagerly, not as domineering over those in your charge but being examples to the flock. 1 Peter 5:2-3

**Young ones:** ... Be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble." Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that in due time he may exalt you. 1 Peter 5:5-6

### **HUMILITY IN RELATIONSHIP**

Simple - For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Saviour - Ephesians 5:23 – (33). However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she **respects** her husband.

### **WHAT PRIDE DOES**

Pride is one of the six things the Lord hates – Proverbs 6:16. It is also a means to a fall - Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall - Proverbs 16:18. This is evident in the case of king Nebuchadnezzar. See Daniel 4:28-37. His son was also not humble: Daniel 5:20, 22-23.

Queen Vashti was dethroned because of her pride – Esther 1:10-22. Indeed, pride goes before a fall.

Remember, a man's pride will bring him low, but he who is lowly in spirit will obtain honour - Proverbs 29:23.

See the parable of the Pharisee and the publican. Luke 18:11-14.

### **WARNING!**

If you are rich, don't be proud - 1 Timothy 6:17-19

If you are successful, don't be proud – Deuteronomy 8:11-17. Read also Proverbs 30:7-9.

**Conceited** means: having an excessively high opinion of oneself