

An Exhortation on Humility

The Benefits of Humility

- Humility is a very desirable quality, and one of the reasons it's so desirable is because of all the blessings that the Scriptures associate with it (Proverbs 22:4)

Grace

- Proverbs 3:34; 1 Peter 5:5; James 4:6
- What does grace mean in this context?
 - God's blessing
 - Empowerment
 - Success (having God's blessing and empowerment leads to success)

Wisdom

- Proverbs 11:2
- Humility naturally leads to wisdom
 - It makes learning from others easier
 - It makes it easier to learn from our mistakes
 - It makes it easier to see where you need to grow
 - It makes it easier to act wisely
 - Serving others is wise
 - Obeying God is wise
- Humility invites God's blessing us with wisdom (Psalm 25:8-9)

Honor

- Luke 14:7-11
- It's not wrong to desire honor
 - We might be tempted to think that desiring honor is pride, but Jesus uses human desire for honor as a means of motivation, which means desire for honor must not be inherently sinful
 - God designed humans to care about honor because we're made in God's image and God cares about honor (John 5:44, 12:41-43)
- Throughout the Bible God mentions that honor is one of the rewards of humility
 - Proverbs 15:33, 18:12, 22:4

What is Humility?

- Humility basically means not regarding yourself higher than you ought to
- But that still might not seem very clear, so to help clarify I'm going to press it out into four different ideas, or four types of not regarding yourself higher than you ought to

1. Not thinking higher of yourself than you should

- We should think of ourselves accurately (Numbers 12:3; Romans 12:3)
- Ways we think of ourselves higher than we should
 - More knowledgeable
 - More competent
 - More important
 - More righteous
 - More instrumental (Deuteronomy 8:17-18)

2. Not thinking of others lower than you should

- Humility is relational
- Pride leads us to not acknowledge others (3 John 1:9)
- Ways we might think of others lower than we should
 - Less knowledgeable
 - Less competent
 - Less important
 - Less righteous (in comparison to ourselves)
 - Less instrumental

3. Not having more desire for your honor than you should

- This was Satan's problem
- How about much is too much?
 - Caring more about your honor than you care about others
 - Caring more about your honor than about obeying God
 - Letting your desire for honor causing you to honor yourself more than you should

4. Not loving yourself more than you love others

- Loving yourself more than others is a form of pride
 - It's saying in your heart that you're more important than they are
- Humility involves loving others as yourself

Tips for Pursuing Humility

Learn to respond thoughtfully to insults and shame

- Asking yourself questions
 - Is this true?
 - Why do I care?
 - Should I care?
 - And if so, should I care as much as I do?

Learn to rest in God's love for you

- The single biggest thing you can do to make it easier to care less about your honor or fame or glory is to learn to be happy and content in what God thinks about you.
- Humans have an emotional need to be thought highly of. Rather than trying to shut it off, we need to learn to let God be the one to meet that need instead of going elsewhere for it

Set your focus on others

- Like I said earlier, a big part of humility is just caring about others as much as you care about yourself
- Love is a choice, and you need to choose to love others as yourself
 - Choose to acknowledge that their wellbeing is just as important as yours
 - Choose to commit to pursuing the wellbeing of those around you as you would your own
- Be intentional to think about what others are going through

Seek to encounter God through worship

- Isaiah 6:1-7 NLT
- Worship has the potential to help us be and stay humble. It helps us to see ourselves and our lives in perspective.