

## Christian Essentials #2 Walking in Humility Before God

In this message I want to talk about another one of the **Christian's essentials** that **we must have operating in our lives if we are to be fruitful and successful** in the kingdom of God. **The Christian's relationship to the world**

I want to talk about the importance of **Walking in Humility Before God**.

**Proverbs 22:3-5** - 3 The prudent see danger and take refuge, but the simple keep going and pay the penalty. **4 Humility is the fear of the Lord; its wages are riches and honor and life.** 5 In the paths of the wicked are snares and pitfalls, but those who would preserve their life stay far from them.

**This general observation** – that **honoring and respecting the Lord** brings benefits in this life.

- The book of **Proverbs** describes life **the way it should be**.
- It **does not** dwell much on the exceptions.

**John 10:10** - The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. **I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.**

- ***Jesus has said that He came to give us life filled with His abundance.***
- ***In contrast to the thief who takes life, Jesus gives life.***
- ***The life He gives is abundantly rich and satisfying.***
- ***It is eternal, although it begins immediately when you turn to follow Him.***
- Let's face it, **God wants us to be fruitful and do well** in this life.

There are certain **characteristics** we must put on **if we are to bear fruit that remains.**

**Humility** is one of the most **important characteristics** we can possess as Christians **because it leads us into all the others.**

**In the life of Jesus** one of **the most outstanding characteristics that he possessed** was that of humility.

It was **the one thing that stood out above all others** even though God highly exalted Him in His ministry.

## Walking in Humility Before God

It is important that we really *understand the meaning and the importance of walking in humility before God*, because if we don't, we will find ourselves filled with pride and self-sufficiency which is often manifested in harmful and hurtful ways in our relationships with others.

**Micah 6:6-8** With what shall I come before the LORD, And bow myself before the High God? Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? <sup>7</sup>Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? <sup>8</sup>**He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justly, To love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?**

The people of Israel responded to God's request by trying to appease him with sacrifices, *hoping he would then leave them alone.*

But sacrifices and other religious rituals aren't enough; God wants changed lives. He wants his people to be fair, just, merciful, and humble.

**God wants us to become living sacrifices:**

**Romans 12:1-2** - Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. <sup>2</sup> **Do not conform to the pattern of this world**, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

- **God has good, pleasing, and perfect plans for his children.**
- **He wants us to be transformed people with renewed minds,**
- ***Living to honor and obey him and to serve others in the name of Jesus.***

**James 4:10 Humble** yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

- **Recognize that your worth comes from God alone.**
- **To be humble involves leaning on his power and guidance and **not** going your own independent way.**
- ***Although we do not deserve God's favor, he wants to lift us up and give us worth and dignity, despite our human shortcomings.***

***The question that should be going through our minds at this point is, "Just how do we humble ourselves in the sight of God?"***

## **1. Humility Begins with a Broken and Contrite Heart Before God.**

**Isaiah 57:15** For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, with him who has a contrite and humble spirit, **to revive the spirit of the humble**, and to revive the heart of the contrite one.

**"Our spirit is released according to the degree of our brokenness.**

- The one who has **accepted the most discipline** is the one *who can best serve*.
- **The more one is broken, the more sensitive he is.**
- The more desire **to save ourselves**, at that point we are *deprived of spiritual sensitivity and supply*.
- ***Let no one imagine he can be effective and disregard this basic principle."***

**We must come to the place where our total sufficiency rests in God and His ability towards us.**

**Isaiah 66:2** For all those things My hand has made, and all those things exist," Says the LORD. "But on this one will I look: **On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word.**

- Having a **broken and contrite heart** simply means that:
- ***We have come to the end of ourselves and have died to the flesh -***
- and **everything that wants to exalt itself against God's purpose in our lives.**
- We come to the place where **we realize we are totally dependent upon God.**
- We have an awesome **respect for God and His Word.**

### **King Solomon's Example -**

When King Solomon realized the magnitude of **what God had called him to be and do, he humbled himself as a little child in God's presence, realizing he would have to be totally dependent upon God, if he was to fulfill God's purpose for His life.**

**1 Kings 3:7** "Now, O LORD my God, You have made Your servant king instead of my father David, but I am a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in.

- **Soloman** asked for **discernment** to carry out his job.
- He did not ask God **to do the job for him**.
- We should **NOT** ask God **to do for us** what he wants to do through us!!!

Instead, we should **ask God to give us the wisdom** to know *what to do* and the *courage to follow through on it*.

This is the same exhortation that **Jesus gives to each one of us**.

- The only way we can possibly **get to know the Lord**
- and *fulfill the purpose* He has for each one of us -
- Is by **coming to Him as a little child would**.
- It takes brokenness to do this.

**Matthew 18:2-4** Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, <sup>3</sup>and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup>"Therefore **whoever humbles himself** as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

*A little child is **dependent** upon their parents for everything* that pertains to life.

- This is **exactly the way God desires for us to relate to Him**.
- He has **given us all things** that pertain to life.
- If we want to be **partakers of all that God has given** to us,
- **We must humble ourselves as a little child**.
- We must **be totally dependent upon Him for everything**.

He is our *sufficiency for everything*.

**2 Corinthians 3:5** Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God,

- **No one can claim to be adequate without God's help!**

*Andrew Murray has been quoted as saying, "Humility is nothing but the disappearance of self in the vision that God is all."*

***“Just how do we humble ourselves in the sight of God?”***

**2. People who are Humble and Broken before God will be Reminded of their need for Forgiveness.**

***As a result of being reminded of our need for forgiveness there will be a desire to continually come to the Throne of Grace to receive the forgiveness that is needed.***

**King David’s Example - God calls David a man after His own heart.**

- ***What was it in David’s life that caused God to address him in such a way?***
- ***Could it have been that David was constantly aware of his own sin and failures?***

**Psalms 51:1-4** Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness; according to the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions. <sup>2</sup>Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. <sup>3</sup>**For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.** <sup>4</sup>Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight; that You may be found just when You speak, and blameless when You judge.

**Here David was truly sorry** for his adultery with Bathsheba and for murdering her husband to cover it up.

- He knew that **his actions had hurt many** people.
- **Because David repented** of those sins, **God mercifully forgave him.**
- **NO sin** is too great to be forgiven.

**DO YOU feel that you could never come close to God because you have done something terrible????**

**God can and will forgive you of any sin if you ask him to and turn from it!!!**

**While God forgives us, however, he does not always erase the natural consequences of our sin.**

**David life and his family were never the same as a result of what he had done!**

***“Just how do we humble ourselves in the sight of God?”***

### **3. Humility Before God Will Entail the Surrender of Our Will.**

***Humility is the path to death, because in death it gives the highest proof of its perfection. In death Jesus proved His surrender to God to the very utmost.***

**Philippians 2:8** And being found in appearance as a man, **He humbled Himself** and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

- **How amazing that Jesus would die a horrible death**
- So that **we would not have to face eternal punishment.**

**In the passage before this** we are encouraged to be **likeminded** or to **have this same attitude** that Jesus possessed.

- **Humility *must lead us to the perfect death*** of the cross as well.
- We must **totally surrender our wills** to **the cross of Jesus.**

**Mark 8:34** When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

***Taking up your cross will require sacrifice and possibly pain. But it will lead to a life with a new level of appreciation for Jesus and service to others.***

**Luke 17:33** "Whoever seeks to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it.

**Those who live for themselves display three common attitudes:  
*Materialism, Individualism, and Skepticism.***

***These people will cut themselves off*** from **finding true meaning** through a living relationship with God through Jesus.

**CLOSE:**

**Make sure you are more committed to Jesus than yourself!!!**

**If we haven't come to the place in our lives where we have humbled ourselves before God,**

- ***Pride will manifest itself in many various hurtful and damaging ways***
- **In our relationships with others in the body of Christ.**

***Humility means the giving up of self, and the taking of the place of perfect nothingness before God.***

- **In death, Christ gave up His self!!!**

**The Christian's relationship to the world**

- It will also affect our motives in **ministering in the body of Christ.**

**Let us all purpose to have the same attitude that Jesus Himself had and walk in humility before God**