



Humility:

The Foundation of Christianity



Humility

When I look back upon my own religious experience, or round upon the church of Christ in the world, I stand amazed at the thought of how little humility is sought after as the distinguishing feature of the discipleship of Jesus. In preaching and living, in the daily intercourse of the home and social life, in the more special fellowship with Christians, in the direction and performance of work for Christ, --alas! How much proof there is that humility is not esteemed the cardinal virtue, the only root from which the graces can grow, the one indispensable condition of true fellowship with Jesus. Unless we make, with each advance in what we think holiness, the increase of humility our study, we may find that we have been delighting in beautiful thoughts and feelings, in solemn acts of consecration and faith, while the only sure mark of the presence of God, (the disappearance of self), was all the time wanting. Come and let us flee to Jesus and hide ourselves in Him until we be clothed upon with His humility. That alone is our holiness. Andrew Murray

Definition of humility/humbleness

Tapeinos: to make lowly, to level and reduce to a plain, to assign a lower rank or place, to rank yourself below others who are honored, to behave in an unassuming manner, to rid oneself of all haughtiness. Literally means: to level a mountain or hill.

- Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and **humble** in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Matt. 11.29
- Now I, Paul, myself urge you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ—I who am **meek** when face to face with you, but bold toward you when absent!

• **Praus**



Jesus: a humble man

1. Jesus' Birth

2. Jesus chooses His Disciples

3. Beginning of Jesus' ministry

‘Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

⁵ Blessed are the **meek**,
for they will inherit the earth. Matthew 5.3-5



Jesus: a humble man

4. Discipleship

5. A Friend of Sinners

6. On the road to Jerusalem

Assuredly I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, **you will by no means enter the Kingdom of heaven**. Therefore, whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Matt. 18. 3-4

7. Jerusalem

8. Last Supper & Washing the Disciples Feet

- “The Son can do nothing of Himself” (John 5:19).
- “I can do nothing on My own initiative. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will” (John 5:30).
- “I do not receive glory from men” (John 5:41).
- “I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will” (John 6:38).
- “My teaching is not Mine” (John 7:16).
- “I have not come of Myself” (John 7:28).
- “I do nothing on My own initiative” (John 8:28).
- “I have not even come on My own initiative, but He sent Me” (John 8:42).

- “I do not seek My glory” (John 8:50).
- “The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative” (John 14:10).
- “The word which you hear is not Mine” (John 14:24).
- “Learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart.”~ Matthew 11:29
- “Whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant.” ~ Matthew 20:26

Humility is not so much a grace or virtue along with others; it is the root of all because it alone takes the right attitude before God and allows Him as God to do all. Andrew Murray



What Can We Do?

- Let this mind be in you all, which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped. But He emptied Himself, taking upon Himself the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men. And being found in the form of a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to death, even death on a cross. Philippians 2:5-8
- Jesus said, “Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find **rest** for your souls” (Matthew 11:29).



What Can We Do?

1. Ask God to show you your pride.

- For I am not aware of anything against myself; however I am not vindicated by this, but the one who examines me is the Lord.

1 Cor 4.4

- He has told you, mortal one, what is good;
And what does the LORD require of you
But to do justice, to love kindness,
And to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6.8



What Can We Do?

- **A warning to the Holiness Movement:** *"Let all teachers of holiness, whether in the pulpit or on the platform, and all seekers after holiness, whether in the closet or the convention, take warning. There is no pride so dangerous, because none so subtle and insidious, as the pride of holiness. It is not that a man ever says, or even thinks, "Stand by; I am holier than thou." No, indeed, the thought would be regarded with abhorrence. But there grows up, all unconsciously, a hidden habit of soul, which feels complacency in its attainments, and cannot help seeing how far it is in advance of others. It can be recognized, not always in any special self-assertion or self-laudation, but simply in the absence of that deep self-abasement which cannot but be the mark of the soul that has seen the glory of God (Job 42: 5, 6; Isa.6: 5). It reveals itself, not only in words or thoughts, but in a tone, a way of speaking of others, in which those who have the gift of spiritual discernment cannot but recognize the power of self."*

Andrew Murray

We Don't Know Everything

- We don't know everything, but then we will, just as God completely understands us. For we see now through a dim window obscurely, but then face to face; now I know partially, but then I shall know according as I also have been known. For now we are seeing through a mirror, in an enigma—but then face to face. 1 Cor. 13.12
- Associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion. Rom. 12.16

Take the Focus off Yourself

- Nobody should seek his own good, but the good of others” (1 Corinthians 10:24).
- “Whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant.” ~ Matthew 20:26



Don't Seek Honor

- Seek the lowest seat.
- Do good works in secret.
- Generously praise others. (Don't praise yourself.)
- For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted. **Matthew 23:12**



What Would the Church Be Like If It Was Humble?

Let him consider how all want of love, all indifference to the needs, the feelings, the weakness of others exists. All the sharp and hasty judgments and utterances, so often excused under the plea of being outright and honest. All the manifestations of temper and touchiness and irritation. Including all feelings of bitterness and estrangement, they all have their root in nothing but pride. It ever seeks itself, and our eyes need to be opened to see how a dark and a devilish thing that it is, can creep in almost everywhere, even the assemblies of the saints. Let Christians ask what would be the effect on the church and the world about them if the humility of Jesus permanently was their guide. Andrew Murray

