

Humility

Probably we could all use a dose of humility now and then. Perhaps it would help us all to be more humble, by recognizing that mankind is not the ultimate power in the universe, God is. With all of our many amazing and wonderful accomplishments we pale in comparison to the creator of the entire universe, God. To be humble is not to think very little of oneself or to be down on oneself. To be humble is to understand that you are not, in fact, the center of the universe. Being humble means not thinking you are better than other people, and being free from arrogance. In this lesson we will look at what the Bible has to say about being humble.

Scriptures about humility

Proverbs 15:33 “The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom; and before honour is humility.” Mankind has to have the humility to understand they are not the center of everything and be willing to humble ourselves before God, and follow the instructions He left us in the Bible.

Micah 6:8 “He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?” God gave us the Bible so we can know what He expects of us. Are we humble enough to follow God’s instructions? Do we think we know better than God?

Matthew 18:4 “Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.” God expects us to humble ourselves before Him, to be acceptable to Him. An arrogant person that does not believe they need to follow God’s teaching will not be in Heaven.

Luke 14:11 “For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.” Someone that is humble before God and obeys Him will be in Heaven, those that do not will be lost.

Acts 20:19 “Serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and temptations, which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jew:” We must remember we have no more important mission than to serve God. Even though there might be difficulties along the way, it is eternally worth it to humbly serve God.

Romans 12:1-3 “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.” We must learn to not place ourselves before God. Focusing on an eternal home in Heaven, and doing God’s will in this life, separates one from most people in the world which are mainly focused on pleasing themselves.

Colossians 3:11-14 “Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all. Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.” All that are obedient to God, are equal in His eyes. There is not one type of person that is better than another, to God. All that matters to God is being humble enough to obey His will. We too should strive to treat each other equally, realizing that no people are superior or inferior to other people. We all equally need to humble ourselves before God and follow His will.

James 4:6-7 “But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” We must accept that we all need God. There is no path to salvation that we can create for ourselves. Only through following God’s will can we obtain salvation. There is only eternal salvation or eternal destruction. If we accept that, and strive for that in our lives, we can grow strong as Christians, having the ability to resist temptations that life will throw our way.

James 4:10 “Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.” and **1 Peter 5:6** “Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time” God is willing for all of us to go to Heaven, if we follow His will. If we can humble ourselves, and accept that, in the end God will lift us up into Heaven.

1 Peter 5:5 “Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.” Wear the garments of humility. Understand that none of us know everything. We can all use the guidance of others from time to time and we can always use God’s Word to help us along life’s way. We need to be willing to be humble enough to know we need God, and to follow His Word in the Bible. Humility, not arrogance, can help us get on the path to Heaven.

Examples of Humility

1 Kings 21:27-29 “And it came to pass, when Ahab heard those words, that he rent his clothes, and put sackcloth upon his flesh, and fasted, and lay in sackcloth, and went softly. And the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, Seest thou how Ahab humbleth himself before me? because he humbleth himself before me, I will not bring the evil in his days: but in his son's days will I bring the evil upon his house.” Ahab was a wicked king, far from being obedient to God most of the time. However, on this occasion he humbled himself before God and repented of his wrong doing. Sadly, King Ahab did not learn from his arrogance before God and returned to his wicked ways. However, if we humble ourselves before God today and repent of our sins God will forgive us. If we then continue to be obedient to God, we can one day be with Him in Heaven.

2 Chronicles 32:26 “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.” King Hezekiah was a much better man than King Ahab. He was not perfect

but strived much harder to be pleasing to God than Ahab did. He was able to humble himself before God, and possibly his example helped others in Jerusalem be humble too. Seeing someone in power that is not arrogant and humbles themselves before God, can be a great example to those about them to do the same. Am I that type of example to others? Are you?

Philippians 2:6-8 “Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.” Jesus, the very Son of God, humbled Himself by leaving Heaven and coming to earth for our sakes. He allowed Himself to be treated horribly, and even faced the brutality of a death on the cross, so that we would all have the opportunity to be saved. If Jesus was able to humble Himself, how arrogant am I if I do not humble myself?

Ways Christians can show humility

Romans 12:10 “Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another” Do you show kindness to your fellow Christians? As Christians we need to love each other and take care of each other, when the need arises. Can we humble ourselves enough to be Christlike?

Ephesians 5:1-2 “Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.” Christ gave everything for us because He loves us and wants us to go to Heaven. We are to love one another as Jesus loved us. That means being there to help each other when necessary. Sometimes this world can be difficult, and a fellow Christian can be there to help lift us up. It also means trying to teach the lost souls of this world about Jesus and His way. It also means, trying to lovingly show a fallen Christian where they have gone wrong, so that hopefully, they will return to Christ. Can we humble ourselves enough to help each other, or admit we might need help?

Philippians 2:12-13 “Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.” Christ has opened the door to salvation for everyone, but He will not make you walk through it. It is up to you and me to live the way Jesus wants us to, in order to walk through the door of salvation. Christ’s way is the only way to Heaven. We can either humble ourselves, live obedient to God, and walk through the door of salvation, or in arrogance reject God’s way and be lost.

1 Thessalonians 5:11-13 “Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do. And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves.” Christians should be lifting each other up when they can, and esteeming each other. If we are not esteeming each other, as fellow Christians, we need to start doing that.

1 Timothy 5:21 “I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality.” As Christians, we need to not play favorites. We should not be willing to help brother x, but not sister y. In Christ we are all equal, none are greater than the other.

Hebrews 6:10 “For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.” As Christians we need to be humbling ourselves enough to be doing our Father’s work. We need to be spreading the Gospel and helping out fellow Christians when we can.

Hebrews 13:1 “Let brotherly love continue.” Be willing to humble yourself enough to show care and support for fellow Christians when it is needed.

James 1:25 “But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.” Hearing the Word of God alone is not enough, one must actually do His will to be pleasing to Him. We have to be willing to humble ourselves and obey God’s will. If we are arrogant and try to follow God our own way, or not follow Him at all, either way we will be lost. Only through humbly following God’s will, as He wants us to, can one be saved.

Conclusion

Hopefully, in this lesson we can see the importance of being able to humble oneself before God. Being humble does not mean thinking poorly of yourself. Being humble acknowledges the fact that God is superior to us, and keeps us from being too arrogant, or caught up in ourselves with too much pride. Humility keeps us from being self-centered, and seeing that our fellow man is just as important as we are.