

LOVE
 Without Hypocrisy
 (in the book of Romans)

**40 – Replacing
 a "high-minded" attitude**

Romans 12:16
 > The "Mind" Verse <

3 ISSUES

- BASIC ATTITUDE → Live in harmony with one another.
- REGARDING OTHERS → Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. [LAST TIME]
- REGARDING SELF → Do not be conceited. [TODAY]

Romans 12:16 (NIV)

A focus on our attitude and mind.

**ISSUE #2: REPLACING AN EVIL
 "MIND ATTITUDE" WITH A GOOD ONE**

REPLACE IT WITH THIS

Do not be proud
 ("arrogant-minded").
 > Avoidance (implied) <

Be willing to associate
 with people of low position.
 > Association <


A WILLING, ACTIVE, ONGOING INVOLVEMENT

A WILLING, ACTIVE, ONGOING INVOLVEMENT

Do not be proud
 ("arrogant-minded").
 > Avoidance (implied) <


Be willing to associate
 with people of low position.
 > Association <

NOT THIS! YES THIS!



I'M ABOVE YOU

H
I
G
H



I'M EQUAL TO YOU


L
O
W

(parenthesis) A minor translation issue:

The N.T. Greek word translated as "low" or "lowly" can refer to either:


PEOPLE — OR — THINGS

"People of 'low' position"



I'M WILLING TO ASSOCIATE WITH PEOPLE WHO OTHERS CONSIDER "LOW"

"Things that are 'low' (or menial)"




I'M WILLING TO DO THINGS THAT OTHERS CONSIDER "LOW"

(Some translations point this out in a footnote.)


★ **Either translation is acceptable, and the end result is the SAME.** ★

NOT THIS! YES THIS!



I AM SUPERIOR!

H
I
G
H



LET'S BE FRIENDS AND WORK TOGETHER!

L
O
W

★ A "superior" attitude may be expressed by words OR deeds. ★
Either way, it is sin!

NOT THIS!

I AM SUPERIOR!
 I WOULD NOT POLLUTE MYSELF BY GETTING NEAR YOU!

H
I
G
H
L
O
W

THESE PEOPLE DON'T ALWAYS SAY IT THIS WAY...
 THEY MAY QUIETLY LIVE IT THIS WAY.

Are You One of the "High People"?

THEN THIS COMMAND IS DIRECTED TO YOU!

Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position.
Romans 12:16b (NIV)

- ✓ You must WILLINGLY get off your pedestal.
- ✓ You must ACTIVELY choose to be involved with people and things that the world calls "low."
- ✓ It must be an ONGOING way of life.

This word "LOW" is often translated as "HUMBLE."

Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position.
Romans 12:16b (NIV)

[JESUS SAYS...]
 ... I am gentle and humble in heart; ...
Matthew 11:29b (NASB)

★ If you're unwilling to associate with the "low," you will never be able to associate with Jesus. ★

SAME WORD

If you're unwilling to be "LOW" (following Jesus' example),
 ★ GOD OPPOSES YOU. ★

All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because,
 "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."
1 Peter 5:5b (NIV)

[If you REFUSE to repent, you will NOT experience God's GRACE.]

"HIGH-MINDED" vs. "HUMBLE-MINDED"

ALL YOU LITTLE PEOPLE SHOULD LOOK UP TO ME!

I'M JESUS... I AM WILLING TO ASSOCIATE WITH YOU!

The WORLD and church-going FAKES do not obey this command.

Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position.
Romans 12:16b (NIV)

Some may FAKE it – whether grudgingly or with sinful motives.

IN MY HEART, I KNOW I'M BETTER THAN YOU!
 BUT I HAVE TO PRETEND I'M EQUAL.

(As we saw in a previous week...)

SOME MAY PRETEND!

AS LONG AS THEY *THINK* I'M ON THEIR SIDE, THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS!

BESIDES, MAYBE I CAN USE IT TO MY ADVANTAGE!

I DON'T CARE ABOUT THEM... BUT I CAN PRETEND!

But that's *only* because they are **FAKES!**

SOME MAY BE DECEIVED!

I DON'T ACTUALLY NEED TO DO ANYTHING... DO I?

THE OTHER CHURCH-GOERS DON'T!

I *TELL* THEM WE'RE EQUAL! ISN'T THAT ENOUGH?

But that's *only* because they are **DECEIVED!**

OTHERS MAY OPPOSE AND FIGHT IT!

JESUS DIDN'T *REALLY* MEAN THAT!

OUCH!!

YES HE DID!

JESUS WOULDN'T WANT ME TO LOWER MYSELF TO *YOUR* LEVEL!

MY BLESSINGS ARE FOR *MY* ENJOYMENT, NOT FOR SHARING WITH YOU "LOW" PEOPLE!

But that's *only* because they are **OPPONENTS!**

Remember the FIRST part of the verse?

→ Live in harmony with one another.

Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position.

Do not be conceited.

Romans 12:16 (NIV)

★ If you're *NOT* willing to associate with the "low," you **CANNOT** obey this command! ★

→ Live in harmony with one another.

Romans 12:16a (NIV)

A quick parenthesis:

BARRIERS TO OBEYING THIS COMMAND

(In this verse) ⇒ The *proud* are causing the barrier.

(Not part of this verse) ⇒ The *lowly* can also be a barrier ... if they refuse to accept those who were once proud, but have now repented.

I DON'T BELIEVE YOU ABANDONED YOUR PRIDE!

WHY SHOULD I FORGIVE YOU, AFTER ALL THAT YOU'VE DONE TO ME?

If you want to: "Live in harmony with one another..."

Romans 12:16a (NIV)

➤ You're going to have to obey the rest of the verse!

Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position.

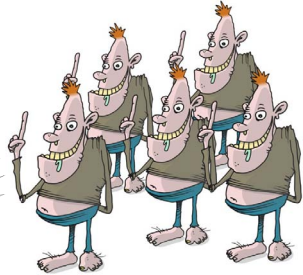
Do not be conceited.

Romans 12:16b (NIV)

➤ Your association with "people of low position" will have to be:
A **WILLING, ACTIVE, ONGOING** INVOLVEMENT.

It will also have to be: ★ **GENUINE** ★

✓ **NOT** forced, or the result of mental manipulation.



WE ALL AGREE!

YOU SAID YOU WOULD PUNISH US IF WE DIDN'T!

★ **GENUINE** ★

✓ **NOT** based on compromise, denial or distortion of the truth.

"TRUTH" IS DIVISIVE; WE NEED "LOVE" INSTEAD!

WE CAN'T KNOW "TRUTH"!


WE CAN WORK TOGETHER IF WE IGNORE THE BIBLE!

LET'S GET RID OF MORALITY. WE CAN SAY WE ARE PROMOTING "DIVERSITY"!

Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position.
Romans 12:16b (NIV)

If you have
A **WILLING, ACTIVE, ONGOING** INVOLVEMENT
with "people of low position":

★ **YOU WILL LEARN...** ★
(just as people in the Bible learned)



✓ You will have to abandon cliques and factions. → **NOT AN OPTION!**

I appeal to you, ... that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.

For it has been reported to me ... that there is quarreling among you ... that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ."

Is Christ divided?

1 Corinthians 1:10-13a (ESV)

✓ You will have to stop judging each other based on wealth or social status. → **NOT AN OPTION!**

My brothers, show no partiality ...

For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, "You sit here in a good place," while you say to the poor man, "You stand over there," or, "Sit down at my feet," have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

James 2:1-4 (ESV)


(Although, if your life is based on truth and love for God, you will judge based on righteousness and moral purity.)

It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, ... Let him who has done this be removed from among you.

For though absent in body, I am present in spirit; and as if present, I have already pronounced judgment on the one who did such a thing.

... you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.

1 Corinthians 5:1-3, 5 (ESV)

✓ You will have to get rid of contention and bickering.  **NOT AN OPTION!**

I appeal to Euodia and to Syntyche to agree in the Lord.
Yes, I say also to you, true companion, help them.

Philippians 4:2-3 (NET)


(These two women needed to stop this arguing. It was such a problem, that others would need to help them stop it!)

SO ...

ARE YOU WILLING AND READY TO FOLLOW JESUS?

.....

★ Then TODAY'S MISSION is just for you! ★



Your Mission...

JOIN THE "LOW ONES"

.....

Treat each other as equals, willing to interact with each other, for the glory of God!

Credits (1)

SCRIPTURE

- Scriptures marked "NIV" - Scripture quoted from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®, Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved. (www.zondervanbibles.com)
- Scriptures marked "ESV" - Scripture quotation from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. (www.gnpb.org)
- Scriptures marked "NASB" - Scriptures quoted from the New American Standard Bible®, Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation Used by permission. (www.Lockman.org)
- Scriptures marked "NET" - Scripture quoted by permission. Quotations designated (NET) are from the NET Bible® copyright ©1996-2006 by Biblical Studies Press, L.L.C. <http://netbible.com> All rights reserved.

PICTURES (original sources; modifications may have been made)

- Green "stick person" - from: By Cieresak (Own work) [CC BY-SA 4.0 (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>)], via Wikimedia Commons; https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Stick_people_holding_hands_dipart-nl-4E5BA.png
- Pedestal (column), all variations - By Pearson Scott Foresman [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons; [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Column_\(PSF\).png](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Column_(PSF).png) (modified)
- Silhouette(s), black - By rejon [Public domain], via openclipart.org; <https://openclipart.org/detail/21970/person-ouline-3>
- Silhouettes, blue - Based on images found here: By GDJ [Public domain], via openclipart.org; <https://openclipart.org/detail/276738/30-people-silhouettes>

Credits (2)

PICTURES (original sources; modifications may have been made)

- Silhouette representing Jesus - By GDJ [Public domain], via openclipart.org; <https://openclipart.org/detail/241709/jesus-christ-silhouette>
- Person with fake nose - By Jos van Zetten from Amsterdam, the Netherlands (350 climate change in Amsterdam) [CC BY 2.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/>)], via Wikimedia Commons; https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Flickr_-_NewsPhoto_-_350_climate_change_in_Amsterdam.jpg (modified)
- Athletes boxing - Eadweard Muybridge [Public domain or Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons; [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Athletes_boxing_01_\(slide_5\)](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Athletes_boxing_01_(slide_5))
- Group of "mindless" people - By miutopia (Public Domain), via openclipart.org; <https://openclipart.org/detail/194623/gallopsas>
- Light brown-to-white background - Dennis Hinks © 2017.
- Presentation - Dennis Hinks © 2017.
- DISCLAIMER: The use of a picture does not imply that the author of that picture agrees with the views of this presentation. Some might agree; some might not.

Your Mission...

"Do not be proud [= arrogant or "high-minded"], but be willing to associate with people of low position."

Romans 12:16b

THE WORD TRANSLATED HERE AS "LOW"
IS OFTEN TRANSLATED AS "HUMBLE."

The word "proud" is also used to describe "high"
mountains! (Example: Matthew 4:8.)

WHICH BEST DESCRIBES YOU: "HIGH" OR "LOW"?

GOD'S ATTITUDE ABOUT HUMILITY; OUR NEEDED RESPONSE:

- God opposes the proud; gives grace to the humble - James 4:6b; 1 Peter 5:5b.
- Therefore, we need to humble ourselves - James 4:10; 1 Peter 5:5b, 6. (Result: God will raise us up at the appropriate time.)
- Illustration: God raises the lowly - in this case, it was Mary (the mother of Jesus) - Luke 1:48, 52.
- When Jesus returns, God will "exalt" our "humble" (or "lowly") bodies - Philippians 3:21.

OUR OBLIGATION TO HAVE HUMILITY:

- We are like proud mountains that need "lowered" (here, a *physical* illustration of being made humble) - Luke 3:5.
- Humility is a *necessary* characteristic of our lives - Ephesians 4:2; Philippians 2:3+; Colossians 3:12; 1 Peter 3:8.

- Our willingness to be humble will determine our place in the kingdom of heaven - Matthew 18:4; as well as what happens to us in eternity - Matthew 23:12; Luke 14:11; 18:14.

EXAMPLES OF HUMILITY FOR US TO FOLLOW:

These verses show only the "humility" aspect (even to death, if necessary). The "exalting" aspect comes later.

- Jesus - Matthew 11:29; Acts 8:33; Philippians 2:8.
- Paul - Acts 20:19; 2 Corinthians 11:7.

RESPONDING TO HUMBLE CIRCUMSTANCES:

- Being in such circumstances should be an occasion for *joy* - James 1:9. (See also the attitude the rich should have - v. 10.)
- Humility will enable us to associate with others who are in lowly ("humble") circumstances - Romans 12:16.
- Contentment must influence our attitude toward both poverty ("humble" circumstances) and prosperity - Philippians 4:12. (We must be content either way.)

UNDESIRABLE TYPES OF "HUMILITY":

- *Fake* "humility" - Colossians 2:18, 23. (Does not impress God.)
- A "humility" that is *timid* or *unassertive*, the opposite of *boldness* - 2 Corinthians 10:1. (A false accusation some made against Paul.)
- A "humility" that is a form of *discouragement* - 2 Corinthians 7:6. (God can encourage us in such situations; he may also use people to do so.)
- A "humility" caused by others who *claim* to be "Christians," but who are living in sin - 2 Corinthians 12:21. (Humility was the *proper response* to the sin; but the sin that caused it should have *never* occurred!)