

Assurance of Salvation
Part 55

Humility
(#7)

* Its value *

Humility –
A "Valuable Commodity"

(a scarce one, too)

Despised by most;
counterfeited by some.

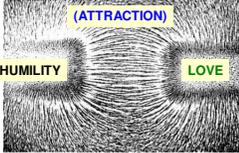
- **People on the outside**
 - Often view it as a sign of weakness.
 - Tend to oppose it as though it were a bad thing.
- **Church-goers & false religions**
 - May invent substitutes for it.

But an obligation for all.

- **Claiming you "don't believe the Bible" *doesn't*** remove your obligation to obey it.
 - God has embedded the moral law in your heart and conscience, so you are still guilty (Romans 2:14-15).
 - If you deaden your conscience by constantly ignoring it, you only *increase* your guilt.
- **Even *atheists* will bow** before Jesus and be judged (Philippians 2:9-11).
 - They'll quit their atheistic pretensions at that time.

Genuine humility ...

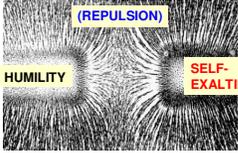
- **Goes along with:** All expressions of *love for God and neighbor* (the two greatest commands – Matthew 22:37-40).



The diagram shows two yellow boxes labeled 'HUMILITY' and 'LOVE' with lines radiating from each towards the other, labeled '(ATTRACTION)' at the top.

Genuine humility ...

- **Is incompatible with:** Any expression of *self-exaltation* (which is a form of idolatry).



The diagram shows two yellow boxes labeled 'HUMILITY' and 'SELF-EXALTING' with lines radiating from each away from the other, labeled '(REPULSION)' at the top.

What this means:

There are certain attitudes and types of conduct that will **NOT** characterize the life of a genuine Christian. *

* (This is not a joke, so don't treat it as such.)

Examples of incompatible conduct

Just a reminder.
(We've seen many examples in past weeks.)

- Selfish ambition; conceit – Philippians 2:3.
- "Paying back" others for their insults and evil – 1 Peter 3:8-9.



Genuine humility, when present:

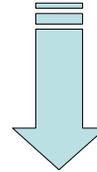
- It affects every aspect of life.
– Everything in one's relationship with God and people.

Genuine followers of Jesus will want it that way!

- **This is why those who follow Jesus desire humility and strive for it!**

It effects both present and future aspects of life!

- Here are some examples of wonderful things that come with humility! *



* (The fakes might not like these things; but genuine followers of Jesus do.)

Humility is associated with *so much good!*

- Justified by God – Luke 18:14
- A desire to seek God and to live a righteous life – Zephaniah 2:3
- Receiving wisdom – Proverbs 11:2
- Guidance by God – Psalm 25:9
- A contrite heart; a reverent willingness to obey God's Word – Isaiah 66:2



Humility is associated with *so much good!*

- Praying and turning from wickedness – 2 Chronicles 7:14
- Gentleness, patience, bearing with each other, promoting unity of the Spirit, etc. – Ephesians 4:2-3
- Considering others better than yourself; looking after their interests (following Jesus' example) – Philippians 2:3-5



Humility is associated with
so much good!

- Compassion, kindness, gentleness, patience, bearing with others; forgiving others; love for others; a peace-controlled heart; thankfulness; and more! – Colossians 3:12-15(+)
- Living in harmony with others; sympathy toward others; compassionate; having brotherly love – 1 Peter 3:8-9



Humility results in
so much good!

- Being great in God's kingdom – Matthew 18:4
- God's favor/esteem – Isaiah 66:2
- Prayers heard by God; forgiveness; healing of the land (when present on a national level) – 2 Chronicles 7:14
- Grace/favor from God – Proverbs 3:34



Humility results in
so much good!

- God's presence; revived heart/spirit – Isaiah 57:15
- God's help/lifting-up – Psalm 147:6
- Being honored / exalted / lifted up by God – Matt. 23:21; Luke 14:11; 18:14; James 4:10; 1 Peter 5:5-6



There is so much good in
genuine humility!

Why would a person ever NOT want it?

That would be insane!

– ONLY a person controlled by his sinful nature (the "flesh") would do that.

IN OTHER WORDS...

– ONLY unsaved people would do that.

God wants us to have all this good!



So he encourages us to be humble.

- HOW does he encourage us?
 - Descriptions of what humility is associated with (such as we just saw).
 - Commands to be humble.

Whenever you're ready... it's all yours!

How do commands encourage us to be humble?

- Scripture gives us commands so that:
 - **Those following Jesus** will pay attention to them.
 - **Those NOT following Jesus** won't.

In this way, God makes a distinction between the genuine and the fakes.

God's sovereignty and human responsibility work together!

For followers of Jesus, these guarantee that:

- Humility will be their **desire**.
(= because of the sovereignty part)
- Humility will be their **goal**.
(= because of the responsibility part)

Since the Spirit of God **empowers** God's people, **these things will happen!**

Even so, don't expect humility to come easy!

- **The sinful nature** (the "flesh") is prideful.
- **The "lowness" of humility** *excludes* boasting and pride, and all else that the sinful nature ("flesh") has to offer.

This will result in **CONFLICT**.

The sinful nature ("flesh") will fight you.



- It will try to get you to ...
 - Put on a **mask** of pretension.
 - **Hide** your vileness and your worthiness of judgment.
 - **Live outside** the boundaries of the truth (= Scripture).
 - **Focus** on self, more than on God and others.
 - **Oppose or fake** humility in any other way possible.

But know for certain that striving for humility will be **worth the effort!**

• **As a follower of Jesus...**

- You'll be **willing to obey** God's commands to be humble.
- You'll **recognize the power** of God, which makes it possible. (You sure can't do it on your own!)

• **FINALLY...**

- Humility's **growing** presence in you will be an **assurance/guarantee of salvation**.

YOUR MISSION: **Opportunity!**

This week, you have an opportunity to demonstrate the nature of your salvation!

- **Are you willing** to pursue humility?
- **Are you willing** to follow Jesus' example?

YOUR MISSION: **Learn!**

We can learn a lot from our response.

- **The followers of Jesus** will pay attention to Jesus and will pursue humility.
- **The fakes** won't.

YOUR MISSION: **Follow Jesus!**

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

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.*

For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Matthew 11:28-30 (NIV)

Credits (1)

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