



"CHOOSING HUMILITY OVER PRIDE" 1 CORINTHIANS 4:7

DR. ROBERT JEFFRESS
MARCH 31, 2019

Introduction: Many Christians believe that humility is a character quality that is “nice” if you can pull it off, but not absolutely necessary. But, as we will see today, God places a premium on humility and has promised to judge the sin of pride with a vengeance.

I. The Bible Speaks On Pride vs. Humility

Definition of pride: Pride is an attitude that causes us to **credit** ourselves for our accomplishments and to **blame** others for our failures.

Definition of humility: Humility is an attitude that views both our **accomplishments** and our **failures** from God’s perspective.

A. The Danger of Pride

Proverbs 16:5 “Everyone who is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD; assuredly, he will not be unpunished.”

Proverbs 16:18 “Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before stumbling.”

Proverbs 21:4 “Haughty eyes and a proud heart, the lamp of the wicked, is sin.”

James 4:6 “God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”

B. The Value of Humility

Proverbs 11:2 “When pride comes, then comes dishonor, but with the humble is wisdom.”

Proverbs 16:19 “It is better to be of a humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud.”

Isaiah 66:2b “But to this one I will look, to him who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at My word.”



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Matthew 23:12 "And whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted."

1 Peter 5:5b-6 ^{5b} "All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE. ⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time."

II. The Problem With Pride

A. Ingratitude (1 Corinthians 4:7)

1 Corinthians 4:7 "For who regards you as superior? And what do you have that you did not receive? But if you did receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?"

A Catalogue of God's Gifts to You

1. Your appearance

Psalms 139:13-14a ¹³ "For Thou didst form my inward parts; Thou didst weave me in my mother's womb. ^{14a} I will give thanks to Thee, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made."

2. Your abilities

James 1:17 "Every good thing bestowed and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation, or shifting shadow."

3. Your children

Psalms 127:3 "Behold, children are a gift of the LORD; the fruit of the womb is a reward."

4. Your possessions

Deuteronomy 8:18a "But you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who is giving you power to make wealth..."

B. Independence (Matthew 7:11)



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Matthew 7:11 "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!"

Ezekiel 28:15, 17a ¹⁵ "You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created, until unrighteousness was found in you. ^{17a} Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor."

Isaiah 14:13-14 ¹³ "But you said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, and I will sit on the mount of assembly in the recesses of the north. ¹⁴ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.'"

C. **Intolerance** (Matthew 23:13; Luke 18:9-14)

Matthew 23:13 "But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you shut off the kingdom of heaven from men; for you do not enter in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in."

Luke 18:9-14 ⁹ "And He also told this parable to certain ones who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt: ¹⁰ 'Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee, and the other a tax-gatherer. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood and was praying thus to himself, "God, I thank Thee that I am not like the other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax-gatherer. ¹² I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get." ¹³ But the tax-gatherer, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, "God be merciful to me, the sinner!" ¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself shall be humbled, but he who humbles himself shall be exalted.'"

D. **Inability to Accept God's Grace** (Luke 18:17)

Luke 18:17 "Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it at all."

III. **Four Characteristics Of Genuine Humility**

A. **Humility is Willing to Credit Others for Our Successes** (1 Corinthians 4:7)



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B. Humility Generates Genuine Interest in Others (Matthew 20:26-28)

Matthew 20:28 "The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

Matthew 20:26 "Whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant."

C. Humility Resists the Need to Always be Right (1 Peter 5:5-6)

1 Peter 5:5-6 ⁵ "You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE. ⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time."

D. Humility Views Life's Accomplishments and Failures from God's Perspective (Romans 12:3, 2 Corinthians 5:17)

Romans 12:3 "For through the grace given to me I say to every man among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith."

2 Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come."

Conclusion