



Principles on Humility: Childhood Arrogance Must Be Replaced by Genuine Humility; Process Repeated after Salvation & in Marriage & Family

- 35) The virtue of humility and how its loss destroys a system of authority is important to our study. Here are some summary principles:
- 1) Humility is developed gradually within four areas of influence: (1) organized humility of the home, (2) the enforced humility of parents and other figures of authority, (3) establishment humility toward society and its laws and customs, and (4) genuine humility which in concert with the conscience forms an internal disposition of doctrinal integrity which serves as an inner governor and regulator of thought and behavior.

- 2) The primary objects of a believer's humility must be the Lord Jesus Christ as Head of the Church and the Word of God as His policy manual for faith and practice.
- 3) True humility is free of arrogance. Humility is grace orientation and emphasis on occupation with Christ while arrogance is subjectivity with an over-emphasis on self.
- 4) The Scripture is replete with verses on the subject of humility: *hw*n*u& 'anawah* in the Hebrew and *tapeinōw, tapeinoō*. Here are a few examples:

Proverbs 3:34 - Surely He scorns the scornful, but gives grace to the humble.

Proverbs 15:33 - Respect and reverence for the Lord is the instruction for wisdom, and before honor comes humility.

Proverbs 18:12 - Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, but humility goes before honor.

Proverbs 22:4 - The reward of humility and reverence for the Lord are riches, honor, and life.

Proverbs 29:23 - A man's arrogance will bring him low, but an humble spirit will obtain honor.

Zechariah 9:9 - Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout in triumph, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and endowed with salvation, humble, and mounted on a donkey, even on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

John 12:14 - And Jesus, finding a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written,

v. 15 - "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your King is coming, seated on a donkey's colt."

Matthew 23:12 - "Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted." (Luke 14:11; 18:14)

Philippians 2:3 - Do nothing motivated by selfishness or ambitious arrogance, but by means of the humility of grace orientation let each of you consider one another as better than himself;

v. 4 - You should not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also the personal interests of others.

v. 5 - Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus
...



v. 8 - ...and being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient [Ὠπακοῦω, *hupakouō*: **to follow, to obey, to submit, to be subject to, to yield to a higher authority, obedience to parents (God the Father), to place under the rank of another**] to the point of death, even death of a cross.

James 4:10 - Humble yourselves before God and He will promote you.

1 Peter 5:5 - Congregation, become subordinate to the authority of the pastor; and all of you must clothe yourselves [Ἐγκομβῶμαι, *enkombōmai*] with humility toward one another, for God is at war with the arrogant but gives grace to the humble.

- 5) The verb *enkombōmai* comes from the noun Ἐγκομβῶμα *enkombōma*, which was the garment worn by slaves that distinguished them from freemen. When preparing to do labor they would gird this garment with a belt around the waist and when so attired they were actively involved in service to their superiors.
- 6) Peter's mandate to the believer is to adorn his soul with an *enkombōma* of humility which is a mental attitude of willing service to God and to fellow believers.
- 7) Humility is acquired in stages. Enforced humility is first learned in the home where the authority of parents introduces the child to a system of behavior that establishes the honor code necessary for orientation to life.
- 8) Children commonly lust for control over their environment and are not easily convinced to submit to the authority of their parents. There are several easily observable attitudes that display a rejection of parental guidance:
 - Reluctance to be courteous by saying "thank you, please, excuse me, may I, or nice to have met you."
 - Disrespect for elders by talking back, saying "yeah," interrupting them while they are talking, contradicting what one says, or exhibiting an "attitude."
 - Failure or refusal to use honorifics such as Mr. Jones, Mrs. Smith, "Yes, ma'am," or "No, sir."
 - Reluctance or refusal to acknowledge wrongdoing. A child who will not admit he is wrong is either convinced that he is right or, knowing he was wrong, admitting it would cause him to relinquish his assumed position of power.
 - When children ignore parental requests, knowingly fail to do what they are told, or haphazardly or improperly carry out an order they are actually throwing down the gauntlet to see who will wind up in charge.
 - When authority is successfully challenged, ignored, or rejected then authority has shifted from the parent to the child and sedition is afoot.
- 9) When a child is forced to correct such behavior patterns then he learns the basic systems of authority orientation under enforced humility.
- 10) When the child learns that this is the kind of courtesy that he appreciates in return then he moves into the realm of establishment humility.
- 11) When such a child is introduced to the plan of salvation he has enough humility to admit he is a sinner and in need of the Savior.
- 12) A child who believes he is the authority and has, for his entire life, operated under the belief that he is not only in charge but always right has an extremely difficult time objectively responding to the Gospel.
- 13) The conclusion is that parents **MUST** discipline their children. No violation should go unnoticed. Consistent misbehavior in a given area should not go unpunished.



- 14) It is true that parents need to “pick their battles” but to “pick no battle at all” is foolishly dangerous, indicates laziness in leadership, and foments rebellion.
- 36) Thus humility is developed over time: the organized humility of the home provides the environment for training in enforced humility.
- 37) This will eventually develop establishment humility which includes the social skills necessary to adapt to social situations with courtesy, poise, grace, and good manners.
- 38) Once saved the child then is challenged in these areas all over again. As a new believer he is placed in the organized humility of the Word of God where the imperative moods instruct him about the plan of God and rebellion invites divine discipline which results in enforced humility.
- 39) Eventually spiritual growth produces an advance on establishment humility with the development of genuine humility and a lifestyle characterized by personal integrity.
- 40) Such an individual is now prepared to form his own corporation in which this process is repeated in the institution of marriage and family.
- 41) Marriage is a system of organized humility in which the husband and wife, both of whom should have already developed genuine humility, are able to express their personal integrity through unconditional love.
- 42) In this environment, the husband has identified his right woman as the girl of his dreams and is motivated by virtue love to provide for her, protect her, love her, and enjoy her. His love is aggressive in that he is proactive in the performance of these duties.