

Humility in contrast is a delightful and fruitful **heart attitude**. And because it deals with nature of spiritual reality, only born-again Christians with the Spirit of God can learn genuine humility. Genuine humility is NOT our natural disposition, but given by the Spirit of God. The more **genuine humility** we learn, the more **powerfully our lives will be changed**. Humility is the **foundation for all the virtues** to thrive in our lives and without it, virtue cannot exist in any meaningful measure. The humble heart is a heart that sees both God and others in the proper light. As we grow in **humility we grow** in the **awareness of spiritual reality**. Bill Farley comments; *“Humility is one of the least understood spiritual fruits. It is not self-hatred or lack of self-confidence. Humility and low self-image are not the same thing. Indeed they are polar opposites. Increasing humility brings rest with self, with God, and with life’s circumstances. It produces real lasting joy and healthy self-image. Humility is the ability to see spiritual reality, to see things as they really are. It is the capacity to see myself in God’s light, in the context of His holiness and my sinfulness. In other words, it is the ability to see self, and this world, through God’s eyes. God empowers the humble person to increasingly see himself as he really is; “wretched, pitiable, poor, blind and naked.” (Rev 3:17). The person growing in humility see his gifts and faults, his strengths and weaknesses, with increasing clarity. Ironically, this humility lays the sure foundation for real contentment and healthy self-image because the humble Christian also increasingly sees and feels God’s great personal love. The truly humble believer has a low view of himself, but an increasingly high view of God and his fellow man.”* from Gospel Powered Humility pages 24-25.

The idea of **humility** in the Bible is to **make oneself low**, or to bow down. It is to be of a **servants mind**, servile, and also **to be lowly, yielding, submissive**, meek and gentle. It is to be modest and unpretentious, to see others as more important than itself.

Philippians 2:3-4 - 3 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but **with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself**; 4 do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. NASB

It seeks to draw attention **to God and His glory**, and to honor, appreciate and commend others for their virtue. Humility does not have an inflated of self, but rather recognized one’s own spiritual bankruptcy before God’s holiness and sees itself then in need of **grace for its sinfulness** and in need of **mercy for its weakness**. Humility has a clear self-image because it sees itself with faith depending on God. Humility rejoices when others are blessed and rather than feeling jealous or envious, is happy to bless and to serve others for their benefit, and even to make personal sacrifices to see these things happen and for **God to get the glory** for it. Humility does not seek its own glory or attention. The genuinely humble person is content to be forgiven of their many sins, to have the bare necessities of life, and their great **privilege** is to love and serve God and to love and serve others. **Humility is NOT self-righteous**, thinking itself more righteous than others, but rather knows itself sinful, in need of divine grace and privileged to be forgiven. Humility is **NOT self-exalting** seeking to be noticed, appreciated and recognized, but rather seeks to be in the background and not the center of attention. Humility is glad for others to be honored and blessed, and for God to get the glory, to whom it is properly due. It submissively yields to the preference of others, and prefers others choices and desires often when making decisions.

Romans 12:10 - 10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; **give preference to one another in honor**; NASB

Humility is NOT **self-willed** going its own way without the input of God or others thinking too highly of its own wisdom, but realizes that others often have a better understanding of matters and probably have insight that we lack. It humbly looks to God and others for help and guidance.

Romans 12:16 - 16 Be of the same mind toward one another; **do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation.** NASB

Humility is NOT **self-reliant** thinking it can handle any situation and can do everything on its own, but **realizes one's own weakness** and dependence of God for strength and resources. It recognizes that without God's blessing and favor, it cannot make any lasting progress.

2 Corinthians 3:4-5 - 4 And such confidence we have through Christ toward God. 5 **Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God.** NASB

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 - 9 And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, **for power is perfected in weakness.**" Most gladly, therefore, I will rather **boast about my weaknesses**, that the power of Christ may dwell in me. 10 Therefore **I am well content with weaknesses**, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong. NASB

Humility is NOT **self-pitying** having an inflated view of oneself that is always introspective and therefore **consumed with self** and wanting to be accepted, recognized and the center of attention. It does not always see itself as the victim of others injury, but rather takes responsibility for its own regular mistakes, and is willing to admit when it is wrong. It does not criticize others or speak of their troubles with delight, but speaks well of others and desires to build others up with gracious and edifying words, giving other the benefit of the doubt.

Ephesians 4:29 - 29 Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, **but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, that it may give grace to those who hear.** NASB

Humility is inwardly glad when other bring correction or critique, because it realizes this is an opportunity for real progress and a clearer view of self.

Proverbs 9:8 - 8 Do not reprove a scoffer, lest he hate you, **Reprove a wise man, and he will love you.** NASB

Proverbs 17:10 - A **rebuke goes deeper into one who has understanding** Than a hundred blows into a fool. NASB

Other biblical terms and ideas for this healthy self-image of humility are; contrite or contrition, bowing down, servile, lowly, yielding, submissive, meek, gentle, and modest. One last important point is that **humility is a goal** we are always striving for but never actually attaining. We may grow in humility by degree, but **never fully arrive** in this life. When you finally think your humble, your pride just ruined it. We all are in a **desperate need to humble ourselves**, and this must be renewed continually, for pride is always lurking in the self-seeking its own attention, importance and lust. This is why the Bible commands us to "**humble ourselves**" before God.

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, NASB

As we said earlier, it is the **attitude or mindset of Christ**, who left the glory and honor and majesty of Heaven to come and serve and die for wretched sinners who rebelled against His authority, and had profaned his world and His entire creation.

Philippians 2:5-8 - 5 **Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus**, 6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 **but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant**, and being made in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, **He humbled Himself** by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. NASB

Thus **Jesus** is our **great example of humility** and His attitude is the heart attitude that we strive to possess at all times, always seeking the glory of God. Humility is "*a focus on God and others,*