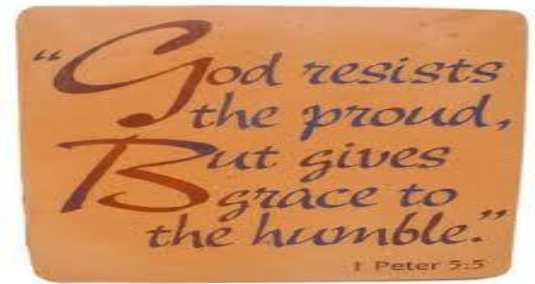


DAILY DOCTRINE: Humility
<http://www.fbcweb.org/doctrines/Hum.pdf>



1 Peter 5:5 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.

1. The Greek word for "humility" is *tapeinophrosune*. Humility is a mental attitude thought pattern of grace.
2. Grace thinking recognizes that we, at no time, earn or deserve any blessings from God.
3. Humility understands that everything depends on Who and What God is and has done. Humility is not self-effacement ("Aw shucks that was nothing!") nor is it telling of your failures or telling jokes on yourself to show how humble you are.
4. Humility-grace thinking causes a believer to have no illusions about himself. Thus, the believer increasingly has a mind chocked full of doctrines resulting in divine viewpoint—instead of an inferiority complex, or superiority complex. The believer who lives in the reality of doctrine has a relaxed mental attitude—instead of human viewpoint mental attitude filled with mental attitude sins.
5. Mental attitude humility has no trouble orienting to divine established authority. Only a positive mental attitude can enable one to have the proper submission to the teaching authority of another, Heb. 13:7, 17.
6. Pride is the opposite of humility and always resents and rejects the authority of the pastor teacher.
7. Thus, humility increases the learning of Bible doctrine, Heb. 13:17. This enables the believer to advance spiritually.
8. A believer who has the correct biblical concept of humility is a wonderful believer to be around. Because of being doctrinal informed, he is confident rather than double minded and "all over the place." Because of true humility, he is relaxed and is able to laugh at his own foibles. Because he is not all hung up on himself, he has a sense of humor. His ego does not get in the way of enjoying life and people.

9. In the Old Testament the word for humility appears around forty times. In the New Testament about fifteen.
10. Meekness (found in Gal. 5:23 as one of the parts of the fruit of the Spirit) is closely related to humility. It is also a mental attitude—of not being pushy, self-centered, and demanding. It is not a word denoting weakness—Moses was called meek in Numbers 12:3 and was certainly no mouse: “Now the man Moses was very meek above all men which were upon the face of the earth.”
11. Dr. Chafer, “Since man has no merit in himself before God but receives all that he has, humility is the only right and natural attitude. Christ was humble, still not because He was a sinner or meritless. To become conscious of humility is its utter ruin.”
12. What a great statement: “To become conscious of humility is its utter ruin.” Once one starts thinking just how great one is because he is humble, he is no longer humble because he thinks he is something when in reality we are all nothing. Some of the most arrogant people you will ever meet often ape humility. What is strange is that some of the most arrogant people in the world are in fact those who are in the doctrinal movement—but they really are not really interested in Truth (e.g., logic and philosophy where one thinks very hard about God, reality, and Bible doctrine; they would rather play religious games with Bible doctrine). Of course, you will also find the greatest people in the world in the doctrinal movement. If you find someone really interested in Truth for the sake of Truth, you have found a true gem! A true blessing! Someone who will not attack and gossip about you behind your back. Remember this, someone who gossips to you about someone else is a person who is very likely also gossiping about you to someone else.
13. In humility the believer accepts God’s plan for his and her life without complaining because they actually believe they do not deserve the blessings of a grace relationship with God. They understand that whatever trials there are in life, they are all part of God’s plan. Such a doctrinally oriented humble believer understands that even God cannot create virtue in the believer apart from the trials of life. E.g., one cannot develop courage in heaven because there is nothing fearful in heaven to overcome.
14. The humble believer *truly* understands that he neither earns nor deserves anything from God.
15. Arrogant believers are never satisfied and are always negative to Truth as such. They are disoriented to Reality as such. They always complain and are never satisfied because they really do think they deserve better. The complaining attitude is nothing but the verbalizing of a soul that is dissatisfied with God because “He owes them.” They may know better than to say these words so they turn their bitter spirit on the circumstances. Instead of carping against God directly, they just turn *away from Him* and do it at their circumstances—i.e. God’s plan for their lives.

In Him,

Pastor Don