

The Power of Humility

Luke 18:9-14. Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others:¹⁰ “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.¹¹ The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector.¹² I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.’¹³ And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

- The Pharisee
 - Compared himself with the tax collector
 - Listed the failures of others
 - Boasted about his good works and self-righteousness
- The tax collector
 - Knew his failures
 - Asked for God’s mercy

...everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted

Proverbs 16:18. Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall.

Proverbs 16:5. Everyone proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord; Though they join forces, none will go unpunished.

Proverbs 11:2 When pride comes, then comes shame; But with the humble is wisdom.

Proverbs 29:23 A man's pride will bring him low, But the humble in spirit will retain honor.

James 4:6. But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."

1 Peter 5:5. Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." Humble yourselves therefore, under Gods mighty hand that He may lift you up in due time

- Pride, ego, selfishness, etc – are at the core of wars and conflicts
- Is there such a thing as healthy pride and sinful pride?

How do we deal with Pride and embrace Humility?

1. Humility knows that Christ died for my sin/failure and I am totally dependent upon Him for my salvation

Ephesians 2:8-9. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Galatians 2:20. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Colossians 3:12-13. Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; ¹³ bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.

- By grace we are saved – the gift of God
- Jesus Christ forgave us all our sins
- We must also forgive the sins of others

2. Humility knows that everything is a gift from God

1Corinthians 4:6-7. Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively transferred to myself and Apollos for your sakes, that you may learn in us not to think beyond what is written, that none of you may be puffed up on behalf of one against the other. ⁷ For who makes you differ from another? And what do you have that you did not receive? Now if you did indeed receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?

- No one comparing themselves with another

- Knowing that everything I am, have, own, achieve - is Gods gift
- No place to boast, brag, gloat, etc

3. Humility knows that God sovereignly governs every aspect of my life

James 4:13-17 Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit”; ¹⁴ whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. ¹⁵ Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.” ¹⁶ But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. ¹⁷ Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.

- Pride speaks of its plans, ambitions, etc
- Arrogance boasts – all boasting is evil
- Humility knows all I am, have and achieve is a result of Gods sovereign grace reigning over all of my life

4. Humility is glad that God gets all the glory and credit

1Corinthians 1:21-26. For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. ²⁷ But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to

shame the things which are mighty; ²⁸ and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, ²⁹ **that no flesh should glory in His presence.** ³⁰ But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God and righteousness and sanctification and redemption ³¹ that, as it is written, “**He who glories, let him glory in the Lord.**”

- No person gets the glory
- God alone receives the glory, credit and honour

5. Humility seeks to serve rather than be served

Philippians 2:3-9 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. ⁴ Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. ⁵ **Let this mind be in you** which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, ⁷ but **made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant,** and coming in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, **He humbled Himself** and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. ⁹ Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,

- Jesus came to serve, not to be served
- Jesus humbled himself

- Put on this same mind of humility to serve

6. Humility knows that serving is true greatness

Mark 10:42-44 But Jesus called them to Himself and said to them, “You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. ⁴³ Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. ⁴⁴ And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all.

- Pride wants to be served by others
- Humility seeks to serve others
- Serving is as high as it goes

True greatness is found in serving

Jesus said...everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted

In 1776 Augustus Toplady wrote ‘Rock of Ages’.

*V3. Nothing in my hand I bring,
simply to the cross I cling
naked, come to thee for dress
helpless, look to thee for grace
foul, I to the fountain fly,
wash me saviour, or I die*

ROCK OF AGES

1 Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee;
let the water and the blood,
from thy wounded side which flowed,
be of sin the double cure;
save from wrath and make me pure.

2 Not the labours of my hands
can fulfill thy law's demands;
could my zeal no respite know,
could my tears forever flow,
all for sin could not atone;
thou must save, and thou alone.

3 Nothing in my hand I bring,
simply to the cross I cling;
naked, come to thee for dress;
helpless, look to thee for grace;
foul, I to the fountain fly;
wash me, Savior, or I die.

4 While I draw this fleeting breath,
when mine eyes shall close in death,
when I soar to worlds unknown,
see thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee.

Written in 1776 by Rev Augustus Toplady

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One person – four parts:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5hyJuuo24tY>

Choir with lyrics

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KUuR7cKgTbc>