

HUMILITY

1. Humility is the accurate estimation of ourselves in the big scheme of things.

- a. Humility is the correct estimation of ourselves before God—not too high, not too low.
 - (1) Humble people have a high view of God.
 - (a) **Is 64:8** 8 Yahweh, you are our Father. We are the clay, and you are our potter. We are all the work of your hand.
 - (b) **Re 4:11** 11 Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory, honor, and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.
 - (2) But they also have a high view of man.
 - (a) **Ps 8:3-5** 3 When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, 4 what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him? 5 Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings (אֱלֹהִים) and crowned him with glory and honor.
 - (b) “Humility is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less.”
 - (3) Humility is estimating people and things exactly as God estimates them.
 - (a) “The Enemy [God] wants to bring the man to a state of mind in which he could design the best cathedral in the world, and know it to be the best, and rejoice in the fact, without being any more (or less) or otherwise glad at having done it than he would be if it had been done by another.”¹
 - (b) “I’m worthless” lacks humility as much as “I’m the best.” Both are prideful statements.
 - (4) The death of Herod in Act 12 illustrates the opposite of humility.
 - (a) **Ac 12:21-23** 21 On an appointed day Herod put on his royal robes, took his seat upon the throne, and delivered an oration to them. 22 And the people were shouting, The voice of a god, and not of a man! 23 Immediately an angel of the Lord struck him down, because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and breathed his last.
 - (5) Humility sets God, angels, men, and animals in their proper places.
- b. Humility is the necessary and reasonable requirement of creatures before the Creator.
 - (1) **Mic 6:8** 8 He has told you, man, what is good. And what does Yahweh require of you but to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly (צַנֵּעַ) with your God?
 - (2) Humility is the first duty of every creature.
 - (a) “Humility, the place of entire dependence on God, is, from the very nature of things, the first duty and the highest virtue of the creature, and the root of every virtue.”²
 - (3) It should be obvious to all men that we must humble ourselves before the Creator.
 - (4) We don’t need to commit sins in order to maintain our humility.
 - (a) As creatures dependent upon the Creator, Adam and Eve exercised humility before the Fall, even before they committed the first sin.
- c. Humility is the proper attitude of creatures toward their fellow creatures.

¹ C. S. Lewis, *Screwtape Letters* (1959).

² A. Murray, *Humility*, Kindle Locations 6163-64.

- (1) Humility sets individual men and women, husbands and wives, parents and children, teachers and students, employers and employees, governments and their citizens, in their proper places.
- (2) When a people ceases to be humble before God, they sooner or later cease to be humble toward each other.
- (3) Humility doesn't denigrate man. It ennobles him.
- d. Humility before God and men is the highest fulfillment of our destiny.
 - (1) Humility "is our true nobility, and that to prove it in being servants of all is the highest fulfillment of our destiny, as men created in the image of God."³
- e. Biblical words for humility are:
 - (1) קַנָּוּת: "crouching...bowing...bowed...with reference to a person who pities himself...with reference to (or in front of) God, Yahweh...bowed, dejected...bowed, but in the sense of humble, pious" (*HALOT*, 855).
 - (2) ταπεινωσις: "Not being overly impressed by a sense of one's self-importance, gentle, humble, considerate, meek" (*BDAG*, 861).
 - (3) The English word "humble" is "from Latin *humilis* low, humble, from *humus* earth; akin to Greek *chthōn* earth, *chamai* on the ground...13th century...not proud or haughty: not arrogant or assertive...reflecting, expressing, or offered in a spirit of deference or submission...ranking low in a hierarchy or scale: insignificant, unpretentious" (*Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*).
- f. Closely related concepts are the fear of God, contentment, and living by the Spirit.
 - (1) See *The Fear of God*.
 - (a) **Pr 22:4** 4 The reward for humility and fear of Yahweh is riches and honor and life.
 - (2) See *Contentment*.
 - (3) See *Living by the Spirit*.

2. Pride versus humility is the war.

- a. The fall of Satan and the fall of man both occurred because of creaturely pride.
- b. Pride and humility are the two master powers at war in the heart of man.
 - (1) "What is then...the great struggle for eternal life? It all lies in the strife between pride and humility: pride and humility are the two master powers, the two kingdoms in strife for the eternal possession of man. ...He therefore only fights the good fight whose strife is that the self-idolatrous nature which he hath from Adam may be brought to death by the supernatural humility of Christ brought to life in him."⁴
 - (2) In the Bible, humility is always praised, and pride is always denounced.
- c. Humility is so difficult because pride is so natural to us and runs so deep.
 - (1) "What you want is to keep a sly self-congratulation mixing with all his thoughts and never allow him to raise the question, 'What, precisely, am I congratulating myself about?'"⁵
- d. The proud walk by the flesh. The humble walk by the Spirit.

³ A. Murray, *Humility*, Kindle Locations 6142-43.

⁴ W. Law, "Address to the Clergy," quoted in A. Murray, *Humility*, Kindle Locations 6278-80.

⁵ Uncle Screwtape, in C. S. Lewis, *Screwtape Letters* (1959).

- (1) **Ro 8:8** 8 Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.
- (2) **Ga 5:16** 16 Walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.
- (3) All sins originate from pride. All virtues originate from humility.
 - (a) “All the evils of fallen angels and men have their birth in the pride of self. On the other hand, all the virtues of the heavenly life are the virtues of humility. It is humility alone that makes the unpassable gulf between heaven and hell.”⁶
- (4) Humility is the root of all Christian graces.
 - (a) “Humility is the only soil in which the graces root; the lack of humility is the sufficient explanation of every defect and failure. Humility is not so much a grace or virtue along with others; it is the root of all, because it alone takes the right attitude before God.”⁷
- (5) If one lacks humility, one cannot produce the fruit of the Spirit.
 - (a) **Ga 5:22-23** 22 The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control.
 - (b) Humility is not listed as a fruit of the Spirit because it is the root, trunk, branch of the Spirit.
- (6) Flesh versus Spirit is essentially pride versus humility. See *Living by the Flesh* and *Living by the Spirit*.
- e. Pride leads us away from Jesus. Humility leads us toward him.
 - (1) “Like many of my classmates at Chicago, I knew lots of T. S. Eliot by heart. I was attracted by Eliot’s suggestions that only committed Christians (and perhaps only AngloCatholics) could overcome their unhealthy preoccupation with their private obsessions, and so serve their fellow humans with proper humility. But a prideful inability to believe what I was saying when I recited the General Confession gradually led me to give up my awkward attempts to get religion. So I fell back on absolutist philosophy.... [Platonism] had all the advantages of religion, without requiring the humility that Christianity demanded, and of which I am apparently incapable.”⁸
 - (2) Yahweh allowed Moses regularly to see his face because of Moses’ humility.
 - (a) **Nu 12:3** 3 The man Moses was very humble (יָצַוּ), more than all people who were on the face of the earth.
 - (b) **Ex 33:9-11** 9 When Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud would descend and stand at the entrance of the tent, and Yahweh would speak with Moses. 10 And when all the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance of the tent, all the people would rise up and worship, each at his tent door. 11 Thus Yahweh used to speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.
 - (c) **Dt 34:10** 10 There has not arisen a prophet since in Israel like Moses, whom Yahweh knew face to face.
- f. Pride is death and hell. Humility is life and heaven.
 - (1) “Pride may die in you, or nothing of heaven can live in you. ...Look not at pride only as an unbecoming temper, nor at humility only as a decent virtue: for the one

⁶ W. Law, “Address to the Clergy,” quoted in A. Murray, *Humility*, Kindle Locations 6278-80.

⁷ A. Murray, *Humility*, Kindle Locations 6177-79.

⁸ R. Rorty, “Wild Orchids and Trotsky,” in *Wild Orchids and Trotsky: Messages from American Universities*, ed. Mark Edmundson (New York: Penguin, 1993), 37-38.

is death, and the other is life; the one is all hell, the other is all heaven. So much as you have of pride within you, you have of the fallen angels alive in you; so much as you have of true humility, so much you have of the Lamb of God within you.”⁹

- g. God fights against the proud and fights for the humble.
 - (1) **Jas 4:6** 6 God is opposed to the proud but gives grace to the humble.
 - (2) **1 Pe 5:5** 5 All of you, clothe yourselves with humility (ταπεινοφροσύνη) toward one another, for God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble (ταπεινός).
- h. Pride leads to disgrace and destruction. Humility leads to wisdom and honor.
 - (1) **Pr 11:2** 2 When pride (גִּדְוֹן) comes, then comes disgrace, but with the humble (צָנוּעַ) is wisdom (חָכְמָה).
 - (2) **Pr 18:12** 12 Before destruction a man’s heart is haughty (גְּבוּהָ), but humility (עֲנָוָה) comes before honor (כְּבוֹד).
- i. God chooses the humble so that the proud may be put to shame.
 - (1) **1 Co 1:26-29** 26 Consider your calling, brothers and sisters. Not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. 27 But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise. God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong. 28 God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to nullify the things that are, 29 so that no man may boast before God.

3. The humility hall of fame includes:

- a. Jesus.
 - (1) See *The Humility of Jesus*.
- b. Moses.
 - (1) **Nu 12:3** 3 The man Moses was very humble (עָנָו), more than all people who were on the face of the earth.
 - (a) “Moses’ description of himself (Num 12:3) as such a man is no proud boast, but merely a report of his position: absolute dependence on God (cf. Paul’s statement in Acts 20:19). Of all men he was most properly related to God.”¹⁰
 - (2) **Ex 32:10-14** 10 Let me [Yahweh] alone, that my wrath may burn hot against [Israel] and I may consume them, in order that I may make a great nation of you [Moses]. 11 But Moses implored Yahweh his God and said, Yahweh, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you have brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? ...12 Turn from your burning anger and relent from this disaster against your people. 13 Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, to whom you swore by your own self.... 14 And Yahweh relented from the disaster that he had spoken of bringing on his people.
 - (3) **Dt 34:10** 10 There has not arisen a prophet since in Israel like Moses, whom Yahweh knew face to face.
- c. David.
 - (1) “David was not important to David.”¹¹
- d. Mary, the sister of Lazarus and Martha.

⁹ A. Murray, *Humility*.

¹⁰ L. J. Coppes, “1652 עָנָו,” *TWOT*, 682-683.

¹¹ C. Swindoll.

- (1) “We always find Mary of Bethany at the feet of Jesus.”
 - (a) **Lk 10:39** 39 [Martha] had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord’s feet and listened to his teaching.
 - (b) **Jn 11:2** 2 It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill.
 - (c) **Jn 11:32** 32 Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet saying to him, Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.
 - (d) **Jn 12:3** 3 Mary therefore took a pound of expensive ointment made from pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

e. Paul.

- (1) **Ac 20:19** 19 ...Serving the Lord with all humility, with tears, and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews.
- (2) **1 Co 15:9-10** 9 I [Paul] am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.
 - (a) Paul’s life proves humility can make one extraordinarily productive.
- (3) **Php 3:7-11** 7 Whatever gain I [Paul] had, I counted as loss for the sake of Messiah. 8 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Messiah Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Messiah 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Messiah, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— 10 that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

4. Humility requires an accurate understanding of our identity before God.

- a. Jesus washed the disciples’ feet because he understood his own identity before God.
 - (1) **Jn 13:3-5** 3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, 4 rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. 5 Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him.
- b. It is because we are already chosen, set apart, and beloved that we pursue humility.
 - (1) **Col 3:12** 12 As those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of affection (σπλάγγνον), compassion (οἰκτιρμός), kindness (χρηστότης), humility (ταπεινοφροσύνη), gentleness (πραΰτης), and patience (μακροθυμία).
 - (2) Identity precedes humility.
- c. Humility is an identity and attitude more than a behavior.

- (1) “[H]umility is not primarily a behavior, but an identity and attitude. . . . To be humble means that one sees himself as lower than the Lord, but not as insignificant!”¹²

d. See *Identity in Jesus*.

5. True humility differs greatly from false humility. We must recognize the difference.

a. A person may appear proud but actually be very humble.

- (1) **Nu 12:3** 3 The man Moses was very humble (וָצַנַן), more than all people who were on the face of the earth.

(a) A person with true humility is not a pushover. Far from it.

- (2) **Ac 4:18-20** 18 When [the Sanhedrin] had summoned [Peter and John], they commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. 19 But Peter and John answered and said to them, Whether it is right in the sight of God to give heed to you rather than to God, you be the judge. 20 For we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard.

(a) **Ac 5:29** 29 Peter and the apostles answered, We must obey God rather than men.

(b) True humility makes one more courageous before men, not less.

- 1) “Humble boldness and bold humility.”¹³

- (3) **1 Co 11:1** 1 Be imitators of me [Paul], as I am of Messiah.

(a) **Php 4:9** 9 The things you [Philippians] have learned, received, heard, and seen in me [Paul], practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

(b) Loyalty to Jesus and the mission of his Church enables one to lead courageously while maintaining true humility.

- (4) Chopping down tall poppies because “it’s part of the culture” is not true humility.

b. A person may appear humble but actually be very prideful.

- (1) False humility characterizes religious hypocrites.

(a) **Mt 6:2** 2 When you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.

(b) **Mt 6:16** 16 When you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.

- (2) Asceticism seems humble but is actually prideful.

(a) **Col 2:18** 18 Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind.

(b) **Col 2:23** 23 These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion, asceticism, and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.

- (3) The false humility of religious hypocrites was the primary target of Jesus’ denunciations.

¹² W. Yeager, *Who’s Holding the Umbrella?*, 64.

¹³ E. Peterson, *Contemplative Pastor*, 115.

(a) See *Matthew 23*.

6. Humility must characterize relationships between believers inside the church.

- a. To walk in a manner worthy of our calling, we must be humble toward one another.
 - (1) **Eph 4:1-2** 1 I [Paul]...urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love.
- b. Humility toward one another is essential if we are to strive side by side for the faith of the gospel.
 - (1) **Php 1:27-2:4** 27 Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, 28 and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. ...2 Complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. 3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.
 - (2) Humility is the key to harmony.
 - (a) **Ro 12:16** 16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight.
- c. Because we are God's chosen ones, together we are to put on humility.
 - (1) **Col 3:12** 12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.
- d. Unity of mind is only possible if we have humble minds.
 - (1) **1 Pe 3:8** 8 Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind.
 - (2) "Church unity comes from corporate humility."¹⁴
- e. We are to clothe ourselves with humility toward one another.
 - (1) **1 Pe 5:5** 5 Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.
- f. Humility is to have a place of supreme importance in the church.
 - (1) "In the life of earnest Christians, of those who pursue and profess holiness, humility ought to be the chief mark of their uprightness. It is often said that it is not so. May not one reason be that in the teaching and example of the Church, it has never had that place of supreme importance which belongs to it?"¹⁵
- g. We are to be guided by the humility of Jesus in our relationships with one another.
 - (1) "Let [the believer] begin to ask what would be the effect, if in himself and around him, if towards fellow saints and the world, believers were really permanently guided by the humility of Jesus; and let him say if the cry of our whole heart, night and day, ought not to be, Oh for the humility of Jesus in myself and all around me!"¹⁶

¹⁴ L. Ravenhill.

¹⁵ A. Murray, *Humility*.

¹⁶ A. Murray, *Humility*, Kindle Locations 6263-65.

- h. We are Christlike only if we are humble and forgiving towards our fellow believers.
 - (1) “[L]et us prove our Christlikeness, not only in our zeal for saving the lost, but before all in our intercourse with the brethren, forbearing and forgiving one another, even as the Lord forgave us.”¹⁷
- i. Humility in the church does not mean an absence of authority in the church.
 - (1) Church leaders are humble for themselves but proud for the office they hold.
 - (a) “It seems to me that we should be at once humble for ourselves and proud for the place we hold.”¹⁸
 - (2) One may be humble and at the same time speak authoritatively as a church leader.

7. Godly humility is characterized by:

- a. Calmness and quietness.
 - (1) **Ps 131:1-2** 1 Yahweh, my heart is not lifted up. My eyes are not raised too high. I [David] do not occupy myself with things too great and too marvelous for me. 2 But I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with its mother. Like a weaned child is my soul within me.
 - (2) **1 Pe 3:4** 4 Let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a humble (πραῦς) and quiet spirit, which in God’s sight is very precious.
 - (3) “Humility is perpetual quietness of heart. It is to have no trouble. It is to never be fretted or vexed, irritable or sore, to wonder at nothing that is done to me, to feel nothing done against me. It is to be at rest when nobody praises me, and when I am blamed or despised it is to have blessed home in myself where I can go in and shut the door, and kneel to my Father in secret and be at peace, as in a deep sea of calmness when all around and about is trouble.”
- b. Wisdom.
 - (1) **Pr 11:2** 2 When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with the humble is wisdom.
- c. Childlike trust.
 - (1) **Mt 18:4** 4 Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.
- d. Patience and tolerance.
 - (1) **Eph 4:1-2** 1 I...implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, 2 with all humility (ταπεινοφροσύνη) and meekness (πραῦτης), with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love.
- e. Affection, compassion, kindness, gentleness, and patience.
 - (1) **Col 3:12** 12 As those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of affection, compassion, kindness, humility (ταπεινοφροσύνη), gentleness, and patience.
- f. One-mindedness, sympathy, brotherly love, and compassion.
 - (1) **1 Pe 3:8** 8 To sum up, all of you be like-minded, sympathetic, having brotherly love, compassionate, and humble (ταπεινόφρων).
- g. Holiness.

¹⁷ A. Murray, *Humility*, Kindle Locations 6494-96.

¹⁸ Louis XIV, quoted in W. Durant, *The Age of Louis XIV*, 14.

- (1) “The one infallible test of our holiness will be the humility before God and men which marks us. Humility is the bloom and the beauty of holiness.”¹⁹

8. A humble person:

- a. Does not trust in his own righteousness but recognizes he himself is a sinner.
 - (1) **Lk 18:9-14** 9 [Jesus] also told this parable to some people 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 collector. 11 The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: God, I thank you that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week. I pay tithes of all that I get. 13 But the tax collector, 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 to his house justified (δικαιόω, perf. pass.) rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.
 - (2) **Php 3:9** 9 ...And be found in [Messiah], not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Messiah the righteousness from God that depends on faith....
- b. Believes God is the source of all his abilities, gifts, talents, money, and possessions.
 - (1) **Ac 17:25** 25 [God] himself gives to all mankind life, breath, and everything.
 - (2) **Jn 3:27** 27 A man can receive nothing unless it has been given him from heaven.
 - (3) **1 Co 4:7** 7 What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?
- c. Sets his heart to understand God’s word.
 - (1) **Da 10:12** 12 Fear not, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand and humbled (ענה) yourself before your God, your words have been heard, and I [Gabriel?] have come because of your words.
 - (2) He humbles himself before God’s word.
 - (a) **2 Ch 36:12** 12 [Zedekiah] did what was evil in the sight of Yahweh his God. He did not humble himself before Jeremiah the prophet, who spoke from the mouth of Yahweh.
 - (3) He desires to be led by God in what is right. He desires to be taught God’s way.
 - (a) **Ps 25:9** 9 [Yahweh] leads the humble (אנן) in what is right and teaches the humble (אנן) his way.
 - (4) He receives God’s word implanted.
 - (a) **Jas 1:21** 21 Putting aside all dirtiness and excess of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to deliver your souls.
 - (5) You can’t be a humble person and at the same time neglect the Bible. If you refuse to study the Bible, for whatever reason, you are not a humble person. Failing to study the Bible is not a self-discipline problem. It’s a pride problem.
 - (6) See *Teachability*.
- d. Obeys God, even to the point of death.

¹⁹ A. Murray, *Humility*, Kindle Locations 6523-24.

- (1) **Php 2:8** 8 Being found in human form, [Jesus] humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.
 - (a) See *Obedience*.
- (2) He is willing to be considered a fool by men.
 - (a) **2 Sa 6:21-23** 21 David said to Michal, [My leaping and dancing] was before Yahweh who chose me above your father and above all his house to appoint me as prince over Israel, the people of Yahweh—and I will celebrate before Yahweh. 22 I will know myself to be even more insignificant (לָקָלָהּ) than this, and I will be of low standing (לְפָנֶיךָ) in your eyes. But by the female servants of whom you have spoken, by them I shall be held in honor.
 - (b) **1 Co 4:9-13** 9 I think that God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death, because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels, and to men. 10 We are fools for Messiah’s sake, but you [Corinthians] are wise in Messiah. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute. 11 To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are poorly dressed, buffeted, and homeless, 12 and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless. When persecuted, we endure. 13 When slandered, we entreat. We have become, and are still, like the scum of the world, the refuse of all things.
- e. Recognizes his own weakness is a way for God to display his strength.
 - (1) **2 Co 4:7-10** 7 We have this treasure in jars of clay to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. 8 We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; 10 always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies.
 - (a) **2 Co 12:9** 9 [The Lord] 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, so that the power of Messiah may dwell in me.
 - (2) He freely shares about his own weaknesses.
 - (a) **2 Co 11:30** 30 If I [Paul] must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness.
 - (3) He is quick to confess his sins, admit his mistakes, and ask for forgiveness.
 - (a) See *Confession* and *Conflict Resolution*.
- f. Is content with his appointed station in life.
 - (1) **Ps 131:1-2** 1 Yahweh, my heart is not lifted up. My eyes are not raised too high. I do not occupy myself with things too great and too marvelous for me. 2 But I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with its mother. Like a weaned child is my soul within me.
 - (a) See *Contentment*.
 - (b) “[I]t is not necessary for me to be rich—or what the world accounts wise. It is not necessary for me to be healthy—or admired by my fellow-worms. It is not necessary for me to pass through life in the state of prosperity and outward comfort. These things may be, or they may not be—as the Lord in His wisdom shall appoint them for me. But it is necessary for me to be humble and spiritual, to seek communion with God, to adorn my profession of the Gospel, and to yield submissively to His disposal, in whatever way, whether of service

or suffering—that He shall be pleased to call me to glorify Him in this world. It is not necessary for me to live long—but highly expedient that while I do live—I should live unto Him! Here then, I would bound my desires; and here, having His Word for my rule, I am secured from asking amiss. Let me have His presence, wisdom to know my calling, and opportunities and faithfulness to improve them; and as to the rest, Lord, help me to sincerely pray, Whatever you will, whenever You will, and however You will.”²⁰

(2) He doesn’t seek great things for himself.

(a) **Jer 45:5** 5 Do you seek great things for yourself? Seek them not, for behold, I am bringing disaster upon all flesh, declares Yahweh. But I will give you your life as a prize of war in all places to which you may go.

(3) He doesn’t stand in the place of the great.

(a) **Pr 25:6-7** 6 Do not put yourself forward in the king’s presence or stand in the place of the great, 7 for it is better to be told, Come up here, than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

(4) He sits in the lowest place.

(a) **Lk 14:10** 10 When you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place (εις τὸν ἔσχατον τόπον), so that when your host comes he may say to you, Friend, move up higher. Then you will be lifted in the presence of all who sit at table with you.

(5) He doesn’t want to be called rabbi, father, or leader.

(a) **Mt 23:8-10** 8 Do not be called rabbi (ῥαββί). For one is your Teacher (διδάσκαλος), and you are all brothers. 9 Do not call anyone on earth your father. For one is your Father, he who is in heaven. 10 Do not be called leaders. For one is your Leader—Messiah.

(6) He prefers to be second, not first.

(a) “The great fault in our missions is that no one likes to be second.”²¹

(7) He decreases so that Jesus may increase.

(a) **Jn 3:30** 30 He [Jesus] must increase, but I [John] must decrease.

g. Takes great interest in other people.

(1) He regards others as more important than himself.

(a) **Php 2:3** 3 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves.

(2) He looks out for the interests of others.

(a) **Php 2:4** 4 Do not look out for your own personal interests but also for the interests of others.

(3) He associates with the lowly.

(a) **Pr 16:19** 19 It is better to be of a lowly spirit (שְׂפִלְיָהוּ) with the poor (עֲנִיִּים) than to divide the spoil with the proud.

(b) **Ro 12:16** 16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight.

(4) He views every person as important.

²⁰ John Newton (d. 1807).

²¹ Robert Morrison, missionary to China.

- (a) “Every man I meet is my superior in some way. In that, I learn of him.”²²
- (5) He covers the frailties of others.
 - (a) “Let every day...be a day of humility; condescend to all the weaknesses and infirmities of your fellow creatures, cover their frailties, love their excellencies, encourage their virtues, relieve their wants, rejoice in their prosperities, compassionate their distress, receive their friendship, overlook their unkindness, forgive their malice, be a servant of servants, and condescend to do the lowest offices to the lowest of mankind.”²³
- (6) He is humble before men.
 - (a) “Humility before God is nothing if not proved in humility before men.”²⁴
- (7) He listens more than he talks.
- h. Leads as a servant.
 - (1) **Jn 13:12-15** 12 When [Jesus] had washed [the disciples’] feet, taken his garments, and reclined again, he said to them: Do you know what I have done to you? 13 You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for I am. 14 If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. 15 For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you.
 - (2) He leads as one who serves.
 - (a) **Lk 22:26** 26 Let the greatest among you become as the youngest (νέος), and the leader as one who serves (διακονέω, pres.).
 - (3) He views himself as the least among all.
 - (a) **Lk 9:48** 48 The one who is least (μικρός) among all of you, this is the one who is great.
 - (4) He gives credit where credit is due.
 - (5) He handles criticism well.
 - (a) “No leader lives a day without criticism, and humility will never be more on trial than when criticism comes. ...Failures and even feelings of inadequacy can provoke humility and serve to remind a leader who is really in charge.”²⁵
 - (6) He takes responsibility for failure.
- i. Boasts on God and not on himself.
 - (1) **Ps 44:8** 8 In God we have boasted continually, and we will give thanks to your name forever.
 - (a) **1 Co 1:28-31** 30 Because of [God] you are in Messiah Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption, 31 so that, as it is written, Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.
 - (b) **2 Co 10:17** 17 He who boasts is to boast in the Lord.
 - (c) “Let’s make Jesus famous.”
 - (2) He boasts on Jesus’ death (and resurrection).
 - (a) **Ga 6:14** 14 May it never be that I [Paul] would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Messiah.

²² Ralph W. Emerson

²³ W. Law, *A Serious Call*, 218.

²⁴ A. Murray, *Humility*, Kindle Location 6460.

²⁵ J. Oswald Sanders, *Spiritual Leadership*.

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.²⁶

- (3) He doesn't praise or commend himself.
- (a) **Pr 27:2** 2 Let another praise you, and not your own mouth. A stranger, and not your own lips.
 - (b) **1 Co 4:7** 7 What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?
 - (c) **2 Co 10:18** 18 It is not he who commends himself that is approved, but he whom the Lord commends.
 - (d) **2 Co 11:30** 30 If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness.
- (4) He doesn't boast in men.
- (a) **1 Co 3:21** 21 Let no one boast in men.
- (5) He doesn't boast about tomorrow.
- (a) **Pr 27:1** 1 Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring.
- (6) He doesn't care who gets the credit for success.
- (a) "A lot can be accomplished if you do not care who gets the credit."²⁷

9. God promises to take care of the humble.

- a. God sees the humble.
- (1) **Ps 138:6** 6 Though Yahweh is high, he regards the lowly, but the prideful he knows from afar.
 - (2) **Is 66:2** 2 This is the one to whom I [Yahweh] will look: he who is humble (עָנִי) and broken in spirit (נִכְהָר־רוּחַ) and fears (יִרָא) my word.
 - (3) **Lk 1:48** 48 [God] has had regard for the humility (τὴν ταπεινότητα) of his bondservant [Mary]. For look, from this time on all generations will count me blessed.
 - (4) Because of God's protection, we may be humble without fear.
 - (5) Atheism makes humility foolish. Theism makes humility wise.
- b. God hears the humble.
- (1) **Ps 10:17** 17 Yahweh, you hear the desire of the humble. You will strengthen their heart. You will incline your ear.
- c. God welcomes the humble.

²⁶ I. Watts, "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" (1707).

²⁷ D. Campbell, past President of Dallas Theological Seminary.

- (1) **Ps 51:17** 17 The sacrifices of God are a broken (שָׁבֵר) spirit. A broken (שָׁבֵר) and crushed heart, God, you will not despise.
- d. God lives with the humble.
 - (1) **Is 57:15** 15 I [Yahweh] dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a crushed and lowly spirit (שָׁפֵל־רוּחַ), to revive the spirit of the lowly (שָׁפְלִים), and to revive the heart of the crushed.
- e. God chooses the humble.
 - (1) **1 Co 1:27-29** 27 God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise. God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong. 28 God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, 29 so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.
- f. God saves the humble.
 - (1) **2 Sa 22:28** 28 You save a needy people, but your eyes are on the proud to bring them down.
 - (2) **Ps 18:27** 27 You save a humble people, but the haughty eyes you bring down.
 - (3) **Ps 76:8-9** 8 The earth feared and was still, 9 when God arose to establish judgment, to save all the humble (עָנָו) of the earth.
 - (4) **Ps 149:4** 4 Yahweh takes pleasure in his people. He adorns the humble (עָנָו) with salvation (יִשׁוּעָה).
- g. God reveals hidden things to the humble.
 - (1) **Lk 10:21** 21 I [Jesus] thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for such was your gracious desire.
- h. God gives grace to the humble.
 - (1) **Jas 4:6** 6 God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.
 - (2) **1 Pe 5:5** 5 Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.

10. God will richly reward the humble.

- a. God will reward the humble with riches, honor, and life.
 - (1) **Pr 22:4** 4 The reward for humility and fear of Yahweh is riches, honor, and life.
 - (2) **Pr 18:12** 12 Before destruction a man's heart is prideful, but humility comes before honor.
 - (3) **Pr 29:23** 23 One's pride will bring him low, but he who is lowly in spirit (שָׁפֵל־רוּחַ) will obtain honor.
- b. The humble will be great in the kingdom of heaven.
 - (1) **Mt 5:3** 3 Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
 - (2) **Mt 18:4** 4 Whoever...humbles (ταπεινώω) himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.
 - (3) **Lk 9:48** 48 He who is least among you all is the one who is great.
- c. The humble will inherit the earth.
 - (1) **Ps 37:11** 11 The humble (עָנָו) will inherit the land (אֶרֶץ) and delight themselves in abundant peace.
 - (2) **Mt 5:5** 5 Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

- d. “The blessings of heaven and earth are for the lowly.”²⁸
 - (1) “[T]he lowliest is the nearest to God. The primacy in the Church is promised to the humblest.”²⁹
 - (2) “Water always fills first the lowest places. The lower, the emptier a man lies before God, the speedier and the fuller will be the inflow of the divine glory.”³⁰
- e. God will exalt the humble.
 - (1) **1 Sa 2:8** 8 [Yahweh] raises up the helpless (לָרָץ) from the dust. He lifts the needy from the ash heap to make them sit with princes and inherit a seat of honor.
 - (2) **Ps 113:5-8** 5 Who is like Yahweh our God, who is seated on high, 6 who looks far down on the heavens and the earth? 7 He raises the helpless (לָרָץ)³¹ from the dust and lifts the needy (רַגְלֵי־רָעָה)³² from the ash heap, 8 to make them sit with princes, with the princes of his people.
 - (3) **Lk 1:52** 52 [God] has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate.
 - (4) **Lk 18:14** 14 Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.
 - (5) **Jas 1:9** 9 Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation.
 - (6) **Jas 4:10** 10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.
 - (7) **1 Pe 5:6** 6 Humble yourselves...under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you.

11. Humility is a quality we must intentionally develop.

- a. **Zep 2:3** 3 Seek Yahweh, all you humble (רַגְלֵי־רָעָה) of the land who do his just commands. Seek righteousness. Seek humility (הַיָּגִיחַ). Perhaps you may be hidden on the day of the anger of Yahweh.
- b. As believers, we are implored to live with all humility.
 - (1) **Eph 4:1-2** 1 I...implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, 2 with all humility (ταπεινοφροσύνη) and meekness (πραΰτης), with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love.
 - (2) We are commanded to be humble. Humility is not an option.
 - (a) **Php 2:3-5** 3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Messiah Jesus.
- c. Our chiefest efforts ought to be directed to the attainment of humility.
 - (1) “[H]umility is one of the chief and the highest graces; one of the most difficult of attainment; one to which our first and chiefest efforts ought to be directed; one

²⁸ A. Murray, *Humility*, Kindle Locations 6339-40.

²⁹ A. Murray, *Humility*, Kindle Locations 6351-52.

³⁰ A. Murray, *Humility*, Kindle Locations 6856-57.

³¹ Low, poor, helpless, powerless, insignificant, small, downcast, sullen (*HALOT*, 221-22).

³² Miserable, poor, needy, oppressed (*HALOT*, 5).

- that only comes in power, when the fullness of the Spirit makes us partakers of the indwelling Christ, and He lives within us.”³³
- (2) Humility is essential to discipleship.
 - (a) “Humility the first and most essential element of discipleship.”³⁴
 - (3) Like Paul, we are to advance in the grace of humility.
 - (a) “A leader’s humility should grow with the passing of years.... Notice Paul’s advance in the grace of humility. Early in his ministry, he acknowledged: ‘I am the least of the apostles and do not deserve to be called an apostle’ (1 Co 15:9). Later he volunteered: ‘I am less than the least of all God’s people’ (Eph 3:8). Toward the end of his life, he spoke of the mercies of Christ and his own sense of place: ‘Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst’ (1 Ti 1:15).”³⁵
 - (4) Our lives are one long lesson in humility.
 - (a) “The highest lesson a believer has to learn is humility.”³⁶
- d. Humility must be made the object of special practice.
- (1) “[H]umility is not a thing that will come of itself, but...must be made the object of special desire and prayer and faith and practice.”³⁷
 - (2) We are to seize every opportunity of humbling ourselves.
 - (a) “[T]ake every opportunity of humbling yourself before God and man.”³⁸
 - (3) A lifetime of humble acts will produce humble character.
 - (a) “We know the law of human nature: acts produce habits, habits breed dispositions, dispositions form the will, and the rightly-formed will is character. It is no otherwise in the work of grace.”³⁹
 - (4) If you want to be humble, spend time with humble people and do what they do.
- e. To be humble is the highest attainment and fullest blessing of the Christian life.
- (1) “May God teach us to believe that to be humble, to be nothing in His presence, is the highest attainment, and the fullest blessing of the Christian life.”⁴⁰
 - (2) Humility is the chief measure of our spiritual maturity.
 - (a) “In the life of earnest Christians, of those who pursue and profess holiness, humility ought to be the chief mark of their uprightness.”⁴¹

³³ A. Murray, *Humility*, Kindle Locations 6409-11.

³⁴ A. Murray, *Humility*, Kindle Location 6361.

³⁵ J. Oswald Sanders, *Spiritual Leadership*.

³⁶ A. Murray, *Humility*, Kindle Location 6789.

³⁷ A. Murray, *Humility*.

³⁸ A. Murray, *Humility*, Kindle Location 6830.

³⁹ A. Murray, *Humility*, Kindle Locations 6849-51.

⁴⁰ A. Murray, *Humility*, Kindle Locations 6878-79.

⁴¹ A. Murray, *Humility*.

12. Humility is proven through concrete, practical, real-world service to other people.

- a. To be humble, we must view ourselves, like Jesus, as servants and slaves of men.
 - (1) **Mt 20:26-28** 26 Whoever would be great among you must be your servant, 27 and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, 28 even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.
 - (2) **Mt 23:11** 11 The greatest among you shall be your servant.
 - (3) **Mk 9:35** 35 [Jesus] sat down and called the twelve. And he said to them, If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all.
- b. In a figurative way, we must wash one another's feet.
 - (1) **Jn 13:14-15** 14 If I [Jesus]... , your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. 15 For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.
- c. We must take no place before God or man but that of servant.
 - (1) "Look to it that you abase and humble yourselves, and take no place before God or man but that of servant; that is your work.... Just as water ever seeks and fills the lowest place, so the moment God finds the creature abased and empty, His glory and power flow in to exalt and to bless."⁴²
- d. Our thoughts towards other people are God's test of our humility towards him.
 - (1) "May God teach us that our thoughts and words and feelings concerning our fellow men are His test of our humility towards Him, and that our humility before Him is the only power that can enable us to be always humble with our fellow men."⁴³

13. Concrete, practical ways to advance in humility are:

- a. Engage in an inductive Bible study of *Philippians*.
- b. Pray for humility.
 - (1) "O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of sloth, despair, lust of power, and idle talk. But give rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience, and love to Thy servant. Yea, O Lord and King, grant me to see my own transgressions, and not to judge my brother, for blessed art Thou, unto ages of ages. Amen."⁴⁴
- c. Make every day a day of humility.
 - (1) "Let every day be a day of humility; condescend to all the weaknesses and infirmities of your fellow-creature, cover their frailties, love their excellencies, encourage their virtues, relieve their wants, rejoice in their prosperities, compassionate over their distress, receive their friendship, overlook the unkindness, forgive their malice, be a servant of servants, and condescend to do the lowliest offices of the lowest of mankind."⁴⁵
- d. Seek restoration of a damaged relationship through confession and forgiveness.
- e. Seek honest feedback from those closest to you.

⁴² A. Murray, *Humility*, Kindle Locations 6380-82.

⁴³ A. Murray, *Humility*, Kindle Locations 6560-61.

⁴⁴ Ephrem the Syrian (d. 373).

⁴⁵ W. Law, *A Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life*.

- f. Say, “How can I help you?” a lot.
- g. Listen more than you talk.
- h. Serve the needy in your local community.
- i. Increase your giving to the church or world missions.

14. God allows suffering in our lives to test and strengthen our humility.

- a. Advancement in humility is a main reason why God allows us to experience undeserved suffering.
 - (1) When God afflicts us, humility is the goal.
 - (a) “[Humility] is the goal which God intended when he afflicted his people and toward which they are to endure affliction.”⁴⁶
- b. God tests our humility through the experience of difficult circumstances.
 - (1) God humbles us to test what is in our hearts.
 - (a) **Dt 8:2** 2 You shall remember the whole way that Yahweh your God has led you [Israel] these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not.
 - (2) God humbles us to teach us that we must live by his every word.
 - (a) **Dt 8:3** 3 [Yahweh] humbled you, let you hunger, and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of Yahweh.
- c. God tests our humility through the experience of difficult people.
 - (1) “Let us look upon every brother who tries or vexes us, as God’s means of grace, God’s instrument for our purification, for our exercise of the humility Jesus our Life breathes within us.”⁴⁷
- d. God may send us a lifelong thorn in the flesh to continually humble us.
 - (1) **2 Co 12:7-9** 7 To keep me [Paul] from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. 8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. 9 But he said to me, My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Messiah may rest upon me.
- e. When we allow undeserved suffering to humble us, Jesus’ omnipotence rests upon us.
 - (1) **2 Co 12:9** 9 [The Lord] said to me, My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made complete in weakness. Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Messiah may rest upon me.
- f. Nothing is without profit to the humble soul.
 - (1) “[N]othing is in vain, or without profit to the humble soul; it stands always in a state of divine growth; everything that falls upon it is like a dew of heaven to it.”⁴⁸

⁴⁶ L. J. Coppes, “1652 תָּנָּה,” (*TWOT*, 682-683).

⁴⁷ A. Murray, *Humility*, Kindle Locations 6514-16.

⁴⁸ A. Murray, *Humility*, Kindle Locations 6892-94.

15. God humbles those who refuse to humble themselves.

- a. God humbles those who exalt themselves.
 - (1) **Mt 23:12** 12 Whoever exalts himself will be humbled.
 - (2) **Lk 14:11** 11 Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled.
 - (3) **Lk 18:14** 14 Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled.
 - (4) God humbles leaders who are unfaithful to him.
 - (a) **2 Ch 28:19** 19 Yahweh humbled Judah because of Ahaz king of Israel, for he had brought about a lack of restraint in Judah and was very unfaithful to Yahweh.
- b. God humbles the proud for the purpose of specific and general deterrence.
 - (1) Specific deterrence.
 - (a) **Da 4:28-33** 28 All this came upon King Nebuchadnezzar. 29 At the end of twelve months he was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, 30 and the king answered and said, Is not this great Babylon, which I have built by my mighty power as a royal residence and for the glory of my majesty? 31 While the words were still in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, O King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: The kingdom has departed from you, 32 and you shall be driven from among men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. And you shall be made to eat grass like an ox, and seven periods of time shall pass over you, until you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will. 33 Immediately the word was fulfilled against Nebuchadnezzar.
 - (2) General deterrence.
 - (a) **Da 5:22-23** 22 You his son, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, though you knew all this, 23 but you have lifted up yourself against the Lord of heaven.
 - 1) All earthly rulers are to learn the lesson Nebuchadnezzar learns in Da 2-4.
- c. Humility is the response God is looking for when he disciplines us.
 - (1) **2 Ch 7:14** 14 If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.
 - (2) **2 Ki 22:19** 19 Because your heart was penitent, and you [Josiah] humbled yourself before Yahweh when you heard how I spoke against this place and against its inhabitants, that they should become a desolation and a curse, and you have torn your clothes and wept before me, I also have heard you, declares Yahweh.
 - (a) **2 Ch 34:27** 27 Because your heart was tender and you [Josiah] humbled yourself before God when you heard his words against this place and its inhabitants, and you have humbled yourself before me and have torn your clothes and wept before me, I also have heard you, declares Yahweh.
- d. We incur more and more guilt if we refuse to be humbled by God's discipline.
 - (1) **2 Ch 33:23** 23 [Amon] did not humble himself before Yahweh as Manasseh his father had humbled himself, but this Amon incurred guilt more and more.
 - (2) **2 Ch 36:12** 12 [Zedekiah] did what was evil in the sight of Yahweh his God. He did not humble himself before Jeremiah the prophet, who spoke from the mouth of Yahweh. It is God's job to humble people, not ours. Stay out of the way!

(3) Daniel did not humble Nebuchadnezzar or Belshazzar. God did.

16. In the new creation, humility before God will be universal.

- a. For some, it will be voluntary. For others, it will be enforced.
 - (1) **Php 2:9-11** 9 God has highly exalted [Jesus] and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven, on earth, and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Messiah is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
 - (2) Eventually, every angelic and human creature will be humble before the Trinity.
 - (a) It is unclear whether Satan and unbelievers will ever voluntarily humble themselves before God.
 - (3) Unbelievers will have all eternity to think about the consequences of their pride.
- b. Humility will be a primary characteristic of the new universe.
 - (1) **Re 4:9-11** 9 Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor, and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, 10 the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne saying, 11 Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory, honor, and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.

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Notes