

The Attitude of Christ . . .

“Complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. Do all things without grumbling or questioning, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.”
(Philippians 2:2–16)

*When you have a heart of humility,
you reflect the heart of God.*

—June Hunt

Q: “What is pride?”

In English, the word *pride* has two meanings:

- A spirit of conceit or superior worth (a negative quality)
- A spirit of pleasing satisfaction or proper self-worth (a positive quality)¹

In Greek, the word *huperephanos* means “arrogant, proud or appearing above others.” (*Huper* means above; *phaino* means to appear.) In the New Testament pride is nearly always used in the negative sense of being haughty, disdainful, and proud.²

“People will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy.”
(2 Timothy 3:2)

Q: “What is humility?”

In English, the word *humility* has two meanings:

- A spirit of respectfulness, deference, and meekness (a positive quality)
- A spirit of insignificance, inferiority, and subserviance (a negative quality)³

In Greek, the word *tapeinos* means humble in spirit or lowly. In the New Testament, humility is nearly always referred to in the positive sense denoting a lowliness or humbleness of mind.⁴

“Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”
(Matthew 18:4)

Surface Causes of Pride⁵

Selling out to the world's concept of success
(Psalm 52:7)

- Achievement
- Acceptance
- Affluence
- Ability

Eliminating low self-worth by attempting to fill
God-given inner needs apart from God
(Ezekiel 33:31–32)

- Unconditional love
- Significance
- Security

Lifting the burden of guilt for their sins through
personal performance (Romans 10:3)

- Rejection of Christ's sacrifice for sin
- Self-righteousness
- Good works
- Perfectionism

Focusing on self (2 Timothy 3:2)

- Self-interest
- Self-reliance
- Self-indulgence
- Self-satisfaction
- Self-esteem
- Self-punishment

*"Being ignorant of the righteousness that comes
from God, and seeking to establish their own,
they did not submit to God's righteousness."
(Romans 10:3)*

Test of True Humility⁶

- Do you feel joy when others are honored?
- Do you honestly and openly admit sin?
- Do you seek truth from others regarding your weaknesses?
- Do you accept criticism graciously?
- Do you turn all worry, anxiety, and concern over to the Lord?
- Do you respond with humility when you have been replaced?
- Do you pursue godliness in all that you do?

Key Verse to Memorize

*"He gives more grace. Therefore it says,
'God opposes the proud,
but gives grace to the humble.'
(James 4:6)*

Key Passage to Read and Reread

Luke 18:9–14

*"Pride goes before destruction,
and a haughty spirit before a fall."
(Proverbs 16:18)*

Pray for a Heart of Humility⁷

Recognize humility as a Christian's most divine
clothing. (1 Peter 5:5)

Embrace God's perspective toward pride.
(Proverbs 8:13)

Pray for God to reveal your blind spots.
(Psalm 139:23–24)

Focus on the character of Christ, not on your own sin.
(Hebrews 12:2)

Respond with humility to God's influences in your
life. (Proverbs 3:11–12)

- the Word of God
- the authorities in your life
- the counsel of family and friends
- the discipline of God

Accept everything God allows in your life with
gratitude. (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

Develop a servant's heart toward others.
(Matthew 23:11)

Respond to rebuke and submit to the life
of Christ within you. (Galatians 2:20)

*"Search me, O God, and know my heart!
Try me and know my thoughts!
And see if there be any grievous way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting!"
(Psalm 139:23–24)*

The Humility of Christ vs. the Human Pride of . . .

Prestige

*"He was despised and rejected by men."
(Isaiah 53:3)*

Position

*"The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve."
(Mark 10:45)*

Popularity

*"If the world hates you, know that it
has hated me before it hated you."
(John 15:18)*

Possessions

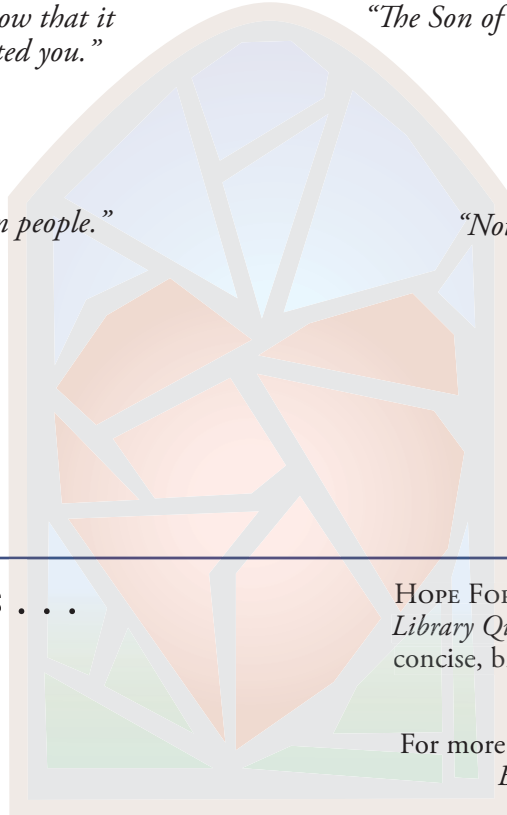
*"The Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head."
(Matthew 8:20)*

Praise

*"I do not receive glory from people."
(John 5:41)*

Power

*"Not as I will, but as you will."
(Matthew 26:39)*



Related Topics . . .

- Perfectionism:
The Push to Perform
- Prejudice:
Pulling Up the Roots of Pride
- Self-Worth:
Discerning Your God-Given Value
- Submission:
Yielding from a Spirit of Strength
- Success through Failure:
From Stumbling Stones to Stepping Stones

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1. Merriam-Webster's *Collegiate Dictionary* (electronic edition) Merriam-Webster, 2001.
2. Vine, W. E. *Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words*. electronic ed. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1996; Lawrence O. Richards, "Arrogance/Pride," in *Expository Dictionary of Bible Words*, ed. Lyman Rand Tucker Jr. and Gerard H. Terpstra (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1985), 75-77.
3. Merriam-Webster's *Collegiate Dictionary*.
4. Lawrence O. Richards, "Humble/Humility," in *Expository Dictionary of Bible Words*, ed. Lyman Rand Tucker Jr. and Gerard H. Terpstra (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1985), 346-48.
5. For this section, see W. Phillip Keller, *Predators in Our Pulpits* (Eugene, OR: Harvest House, 1988), 29-36, 47-54; Donald McCullough, "The Lord Helps Those Who Can't Help Themselves," *Discipleship Journal*, May/June 1989, 49.
6. For this section see Dan B. Allender, "Humility: Antidote to Shame," in *IBC Perspective* (Winona Lake, IN: Institute of Biblical Counseling, n.d.), 43; Russell Kelfer, *Wanted: Correctable Christians: Part 1* (San Antonio, TX: Discipleship Tape Ministries, 1982), 4.
7. For this section, see Russell Kelfer, *The High Cost of Humility* (San Antonio, TX: Discipleship Tape Ministries, 1982), 2-11; Russell Kelfer, *What Is Humility?* (San Antonio, TX: Discipleship Tape Ministries, n.d.), 7-9; Kelfer, *Wanted: Correctable Christians: Part 1*, 2-11; Russell Kelfer, *The Perennial Problem of Pride* (San Antonio, TX: Discipleship Tape Ministries, 1982), 2; Andrew Murray, *Humility* (Springdale, PA: Whitaker House, 1982), 6-7, 13-14, 18-19, 27-33, 38-41, 43-50, 56, 66, 90, 105-6.



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