

I Corinthians 20 The Proudful Look III notes

I Corinthians 4:6-7

[Americans] have tremendous faith in themselves. In 1950, the Gallup organization asked high school seniors, "Are you a very important person?" And at that point 12 percent said yes. They asked the same question in 2005 and 80 percent said, "Yes, I am a very important person." Time magazine asked Americans, "Are you in the top one percent of earners?" 19%percent of Americans are in the top 1% of earners. Americans score 25th in the world in math, but if you ask Americans, "Are you really good in math?" [they often say yes].

We are number-one in the world at thinking we are really good at math.

--Mankind's fall from glory came as a result of pride: Gen. 3:5 "we can have a God-like status!"

"One of the biggest differences between you and God is that God never thinks He's you."

--Matt. 18:2-3 – Our actual status is that of children.

--Children bring no intrinsic value with them: we don't love them because of their mad skills, 6-figure incomes, peace and tranquility they bring with them.

--Children aren't assets in the short run, they are liabilities; so why do we love them? Because they are ours!

--Children aren't supposed to have anything to offer! That's the Parent's job.

Similarly, we hold the status of a child; therefore, we have nothing to offer God, it's the other way around.

--Heaven isn't going to be better because we are there. We have to be made suitable for Heaven so we don't mess it up when we get there.

--Take the status of child so that God can fully take the status of your Father!

We have been harping on the horrors of pride; we are now going to shift our focus to humility—what is it and how do we attain it.

1. What is Humility?

Humility is Reality

--Humility is living in truth about ourselves: We aren't God; our status is that of children. It's not about us, we are a black hole of needs, we are dependent on God for everything and in every way.

--Rom. 12:3

A.W. Tozer, wrote about humility: "A humble man is not a human mouse afflicted with a sense of his own inferiority. He has accepted God's estimate of his own life. He knows he is weak and helpless as God declared him to be, but paradoxically, he knows at the same time he is in the sight of God of more importance than the angels. In himself, nothing, in God, everything."

Humility is dependency--

Drug and alcohol addiction are epidemic in our culture. Everyone here either has had substance problem or knows personally someone who has.

I think that the AA book should be required reading for all of us. I have been reading the AA book, 'the Big Book' and have really enjoyed it. I still am not sure if I 100% agree with all the tenants of the book, but I'm not and alcoholic or drug addict either.

What I love about the book is the reality that is demonstrated in it. Alcoholic is totally out of control, can't put one foot in front of the other without God's help, finds his purpose in helping others. I'm not an alcoholic, but that's the truth about me too. That's the truth about all of us.

--We are slaves to sin without Christ and are totally dependent on God's help to put one foot in front of another

--Instead of believing the lie: "You'll be like God", let's start every day acknowledging our dependence on Him, our need of Him, our confidence in Him alone. --**That's humility**

"I used to think that God's gifts were on shelves one above another and the taller we grow, the easier we can reach them. No, I find, that God's gifts are on shelves one beneath another and the lower we stoop, the more we get." --F.B. Meyer

Humility is conviction of sin and helplessness

--**Matt. 5:2-6** -- Think of these as recommendations for sobriety poverty (cringing beggar) mourning, hungering and thirsting; meekness--these all are descriptive of a proper attitude toward sin.

--Take the status of a cringing beggar, a vulnerable, needy person so that God can take the status of being of the supplier of all your needs!

Humility test:

1. Do you feel joy when others are honored?
2. Do you seek truth from others regarding your weaknesses?
3. Do you accept criticism graciously?
4. Do you easily admit sin and failures?

Measure your humility by your sense of unworthiness of God's forgiveness and grace.

Measure your humility by your willingness to forgive others.

On some level, my unwillingness to forgive is saying that I'm somehow better "I would never do such a thing" "she's a horrible person" (but you're not?)

Humility is ceasing to think about yourself

--High self-esteem is prideful and is thinking that you're awesome and God's gift to the world.

--Low self-esteem is thinking a lot of yourself as well, you're constantly the focus, I don't measure up, I'm not good enough, smart enough, pretty enough, etc.

--Humility is neither of those things: humility is stopping thinking of yourself altogether.

--**Phil. 2:3** -- Join the movement, stop thinking of yourself, because no one else is—in this self-absorbed world we fuss over our looks, our cars, our houses, our public image, but the fact is no one really cares! they are too focused on themselves just like we are!

--Humility is the absence of self in all we think, do or say.

--Humility is others focused.

Measure your humility by your willingness for others to receive the prominence and credit while you are forgotten.

Humility is being like God

--**Phil. 2:5-6** – Jesus had no pride or self-esteem, nothing to prove, thought nothing of Himself only of us. —be like Jesus!

Jesus was God telling us in person who HE is. “Anyone who has seen Me has seen the Father.”

--What did He tell us? “the Lamb of God” -- no creature more humble.

--At His baptism where John the Baptist called Him the Lamb of God, the Holy Spirit descended in the form of dove—when was the last time you were attacked by a mean, angry dove?

--Are we getting what He’s trying to communicate to us? The weakest, the least, the gentlest of all is who He is and yet He is God.

--HE could have been born anywhere, at any time, to anyone, but He was born in a tiny town, in a stable, laid in a manger, acknowledged by a handful of shepherds.

--HE could have grown up anywhere and done anything, but He was the son of manual laborer and lived in a town that had nothing and was on the way to nothing and meant nothing to the people of that day.

--He could have lived any way He wanted but He tells a follower “the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.”

--At His death they divided all He had and had and it turned out just to be the clothes on His back.

--They crucified Him stark naked—tell me He wasn’t humble!

Measure your humility by your hunger to see Jesus receive all the glory in your life.

“What do you have that you did not receive?”