"THE BENEFITS OF HUMILITY"

I Peter 5:5-7
6-1-2022

INTRODUCTION:

***All of us need to humble ourselves!**

Why? What are the benefits of humility?

I. *You need to humble yourself*
so that you may properly SUBMIT to those OVER you in AGE and AUTHORITY (v. 5a)

II. *You need to humble yourself*
so that you may properly RESPOND to those AROUND you (v. 5b)

III. *You need to humble yourself*
so that you may experience the GRACE of God and not the OPPOSITION of God (v. 5c)

IV. *You need to humble yourself*
so that you may have God EXALT you in honor at the right time of His choosing (v. 6)

V. *You need to humble yourself*
so that you may LET GO of your WORRIES and give them to God who cares for you (v. 7)

VI. *You need to humble yourself*
so that you may not FALL PREY to your ADVERSARY the devil (v. 8)

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INTRODUCTION:

The emphasis of verses 5 - 7 is on the need for humility.

". . . be clothed with humility" (v. 5)

"God. . . giveth grace to the humble" (v. 5)

"Humble yourselves. . ." (v. 6)

***All of us need to humble ourselves!**

Why? What are the benefits of humility?

I. *You need to humble yourself*
so that you may properly SUBMIT to those OVER you in AGE and AUTHORITY (v. 5a)

Perhaps in no instance is humility more evident than in one's response to authority. How you respond to authority is a barometer of how humble you are before God (who established the authorities that exist).

One who is arrogantly unsubmissive to God will also be stubborn, rebellious, rigid, unbending, disobedient to the authorities God established -

--church to pastor (Heb. 12:17)

--wife to husband (Eph. 5:22)

--children to parents (Eph. 6:1)

--citizen to government (Rom. 13:1)

"Likewise" - in the same way as

In the same way as God told the Elders their responsibility toward the flock (5:1-4), He now tells the flock their responsibility toward their Elders.

"Ye younger" - Could mean: "younger in age" or "younger in spiritual maturity" (new or young believers)

There is often a tendency among younger men to be innovative (come up with new ideas all the time, which is good), and in the process they sometimes in pride resist the old ideas and ways.

"Submit" - (Aorist imperative) start submitting; if you are not already, begin being subject

The word *hupotasso* means to "place yourself under" the leadership and headship of the Elders.

The word was a military term which described the troops' responsibility to "take their right place in rank" under the commanding officer.

This term does not imply inferiority of essence, but a distinction in function. Submission involves showing respect for God-ordained positions of authority.

The idea of submission to pastoral authority is reaffirmed in Heb. 13:17 - *"Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you."*

The church Elder cannot properly perform his God-given job of "overseeing the flock" (I Pet. 5:2) if the flock refuses or bucks his position of leadership.

II. *You need to humble yourself*
so that you may properly <u>RESPOND</u> to those <u>AROUND</u> you (v. 5b)

"Ye all of you be subject one to another" -(KJV) Every one of us (even those in authority) should have a spirit of humble submissiveness to the needs and wishes of others.

Paul asserted this principle of mutual submission in Eph. 5:21 - *"Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God."*

--Husbands, when is the last time you submitted to the wishes of your wife? (I'm not talking about submitting to her authority -- men, you are the one with the God-given position of authority). I'm speaking about your willingness to bend on non-moral, non-doctrinal issues.

--Bosses, when was the last time you considered the suggestions of your employees?

--Parents, when was the last time you did something your kids wanted to do?

"Be clothed with humility" - Begin fastening around your whole life a lowly attitude about yourself.

Like one would wrap a shroud or shawl around his or her entire body, God is saying that our every relationship, our every circumstance, our every facet of our life ought to be covered over with a humble attitude (especially those areas of life where God has blessed you, your strengths, your talents and skills).

*It's easy for a new convert to be humble about his Bible knowledge. . . the problem comes when one is a seminary grad with a Th.D. in Bible.

*It's easy for a computer expert to be humble when it comes to a field he is unfamiliar with, etc.

III. *You need to humble yourself*
so that you may experience the <u>GRACE</u> of God and not the <u>OPPOSITION</u> of God (v. 5c)

"Resisteth" -<u>*anti*</u> *tasso* (cp. "submit" - <u>*hupo*</u> *tasso*)

"God <u>resisteth</u> the proud" - God positions Himself against the proud. The word means: He is lining Himself up against; He stands in opposition to the proud.

"If God be for us, who can be against us?" (Rom. 8:31). The opposition is also true - "If God is <u>not</u> for us, who could we withstand?"

The media, society, family, peers, etc., may resist me, but if God isn't, I can stand. However, I would never want God to <u>resist</u> me; no one could stand that!

"Proud" - *huperephanos* (*huper* = above, over) (*phainomai* - to appear or manifest oneself)

The Greek word for "proud" means to show yourself as having it over and above others.

It's really an overestimation of one's self, to think more of yourself than is right or true.

Pride is to show off what you really have no right to show off.

It's to take credit for something God did. (I Cor. 4:7 - *"For who maketh thee to differ from another? And what hast thou that thou didst not receive? Now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?"*

Cp. Jer. 9:23-24 - *"Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches; But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD, which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth; for in these things I delight, saith the LORD."*

It's a failure not to see yourself as God sees you.

How does He see us?
--utterly <u>depraved</u> (any goodness or virtue is of His grace)
--utterly <u>dependent</u> (any prosperity or success if of His grace)

Humility is not achieved by having talent and degrading yourself in front of others (denying the talent, putting yourself down), but by giving glory to the One who gave you the talent (and not stealing it for yourself).
One of the seven things God <u>hates</u> is a *"proud look"* (Prov. 6:17).

"Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall" (Prov. 16:18).

"The Lord will destroy the house of the proud" (Prov. 15:2)

--Ask Nebuchadnezzar (who boasted over Babylon) if God resists the proud (Dan. 4)

--Ask Hezekiah (who boasted of his vast wealth) if God resists the proud (II Ki. 20:12-18; cp. II Chron. 32:25)

--Ask Uzziah (who usurped the role of priest) if god resists the proud (II Chron. 26:16-20)

--Ask Herod Agrippa if God resists the proud (Acts f12:20-23).

If any had first-hand experience with the consequences of pride, it was Peter (Mk. 14:31).

God's ultimate day of resisting the proud will be in the Day of the Lord, when *"The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day."* (Is. 2:11; cp. Is. 2:17).

"When short men cast long shadows, it is because sundown is soon approaching in their lives."

God is either resisting you or giving to you, depending on your attitude toward yourself.

Which line do you want to be in? The line of fire or the line of blessing?

"He gives grace to the humble"

Grace for what? --the grace of salvation (God must humble a person before He saves him)

--the grace for living (this grace is God's gift of His blessings, strength, wisdom, direction, protection, success, etc.)

IV. *You need to humble yourself*
so that you may have God EXALT you in honor at the right time of His choosing (v. 6)

"Humble yourselves" - (passive) Begin allowing yourself to be put low (the word was used of the Nile River at its low stage when the water was well below its

banks).

The tendency is for ego-centric, arrogant man to remain rigid, unbending, "high" in his view of himself; puffed up.

If you "lift up yourself", such promotion is not real. Nothing is quite as cheap as someone who "toots his own horn."

Ps. 75:6-7 - *"For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south, But God is the judge: He putteth down one, nd setteth up another."*

Prov. 27:2 - *"Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth; a stranger, and not thine own lips."*

We must die to self promotion; die to the pursuit of fame (popularity), success (prosperity), etc. Only then can God raise us up.

Don't elevate yourself; rather, jump into the mighty, powerful hand of God and let Him exalt (lift you up) you in due time.

Mt. 23:12 - *"And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased: and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted."*

"In due time" - At a point in time or at a specific season of time (at God's choosing, not your own).

God will exalt you when He is ready to! What will He be ready? Answer: When He knows you are ready for it.

V. *You need to humble yourself*
so that you may LET GO of your WORRIES and give them to God who cares for you (v. 7)

"Humble yourselves. . . Casting" - the throwing of our anxieties, cares, and concerns upon God is an act of humility.

Many times in our pride we belligerently strive to solve it ourselves.

We are too stubborn to pray; too self-confident to ask God for help; too independent to trust Him.

Pride keeps us from surrendering our burdens and troubles to God.

Nothing prevents us from praying as much as deceitful pride.

Why should we in humility and utter dependence cast our trials and tribulations on God?

"Because He cares for you" - He is concerned! He has your best interest in mind! His heart is touched with your grief!

If a sinful parent cares for his children, how much more does our Heavenly Father? Mt. 7:11 - *"If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask Him?"*

VI. *You need to humble yourself*
so that you may not FALL PREY to your ADVERSARY the devil (v. 8)

God warns that a pastor cannot be a novice, *"lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil"* (I Tim. 3:6).

Since pride was Satan's downfall (Is. 14:13-14), how well do you think he knows how to tempt you in this area?

CONCLUSION:

The ultimate example of humility is Jesus Christ (SEE: Phil. 2:1-11).