

Humility

Humility beautifies a person. A humble person projects self-respect and respect toward others. He likes himself in moderation, but at the same time values and respects others' opinions as well as his own. The proud person, on the other hand, is self-sufficient, self-centered, and conceited.

In Scripture, humility is one of the most important attributes of the fear of God. The humble person wants to willingly submit to the gracious God's will out of love, even when it is difficult to accept and understand everything that God has given on life's journey. Jesus' mother, Mary, gives us a beautiful picture of a humble person. When the angel announced to Mary that she would become a mother, the message was incomprehensible. Mary was not married. As a believing person, she had lived chastely during her courtship with Joseph. She even said to the angel Gabriel: "How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?" Nevertheless, contrary to the conclusions of reason, she yielded to become a doer of God's will, saying: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word." Mary humbled herself to obedience to God's voice. She did not begin to battle against God's will in thought or deed.

Jesus is the best example of a humble person. Even though He is King of kings and Lord of lords, He did not behave as a pompous ruler. He was peaceful and humble right from His heart. He lived among the throng of people. At the same time, however, He was obedient to His Father in word and deed. He did not transgress His Father's will in any way. He was obedient "unto death, even the death of the cross." He wanted to fulfill to the last jot and tittle the Heavenly Father's will and the duty He had received.

We ask that God would preserve in His child's heart a humble, obedient mind. God has promised to richly bless the humble. "God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble."

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1. Read and discuss the following Scripture portions. How do they relate to the topic of humility? 1 Peter 5:5,6; Matthew 18:1-5; Romans 12:3-10
2. Why does Jesus use the example of a little child when He teaches about humility? What does being childlike mean in actual practice? Share examples.
3. What are examples of false humility that we see in people around us in society?

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