

Grace Keeps Us Humble

Dependence on God produces humility

Everything we have is from God – 1 Cor. 4:7

None should glory in his presence – 1 Cor. 1:28, 29

All good things through faith – Rom. 4:16, Rom. 3:27

How can we be more humble?

1. Think about the cross and the grace that flowed from it.

Paul was overwhelmed at God's grace shown at the cross. This manifested itself in great humility (1 Cor. 15:9, 10).

What did Paul realize that the cross meant when he said 'To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ'. _____

From the beginning, God had promised that the head of the serpent would be bruised by the seed of the woman (Gen. 3:15). Salvation by grace was part of the plan from the beginning to redeem and restore man to the position he fell from with Adam's sin. What was revealed through Paul which had previously been unknown was the saved man is now elevated as an heir, like Christ. This is 'the unsearchable riches of Christ.'

2. Contemplate God's creative work.

David – When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained, What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him? (Psa. 8:3, 4)

3. Study the Master. Jesus taught humbleness and humility. His life exemplified it.

Jesus... a servant, of no reputation (Phil. 2:5-8)

Jesus washed the disciples' feet (John 13:1-15)

What motivated and enabled Jesus to take the role of the lowliest servant and wash his disciple's feet? _____

4. Love one another, as Jesus loves us (John 13:34).

We have _____ shed abroad in our heart by the Holy Spirit (Rom. 5:5), making love one for another possible. Paul appeals for humility on the basis of love in these words: 'If there be... any comfort of love... in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves' (Phil. 2:1, 3).

5. Realize that God's infinite power acts on our behalf.

Jesus knew that the Father had given all things into His hands. Do you realize the same?

Paul could do what 'through Christ who strengthens me.' (Phil. 4:13) _____

Paul wrote to the church at Ephesus that the might know that there was infinite power acting on their behalf (Eph. 1:18-21).

6. Know that your spiritual rebirth allows it.

Self humiliation requires a _____. Think of man's first sin, a desire to be like God. This was self-exultation. If we are to follow the example of Jesus, then we have to know we've come from God. The believer can be certain of this, for they are born of God (John 1:13). The apostle John said, 'we know that we are of God.' (1 John 5:19).

7. Think of your external destination and state.

We'll be in God's presence and in union with the Father and Son for eternity.

Jesus promised – 'I will come again, and receive you unto myself' (John 14:3).

Jesus prayed – Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am (John 17:24).

Where pride has its roots

List a few things that you are proud of. What do these things have in common?

Colossians 3:2 – Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

Pride has its roots in wanting to be something in this world. Devalue things of this world.

When Christ returns, people will see your new life, your true life, the glorious you. Be content with obscurity on earth, like Christ was (Col. 3:3, 4).

Let no one *on earth* fool you with false humility. Hold fast to the head (Christ *in heaven*). (Col. 2:18, 19).