Humble Thyself

And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself... (Philippians 2:8)

I. Definitions.

- A. <u>humility</u>: The quality of being humble or having a lowly opinion of oneself; meekness, lowliness, humbleness: the opposite of pride or haughtiness.
- B. <u>humble</u>: *trans*. To render humble or meek in spirit; to cause to think more lowly of oneself.
- C. <u>humble</u>: (adj.) Having a low estimate of one's importance, worthiness, or merits; marked by the absence of self-assertion or self-exaltation; lowly: the opposite of proud.
- D. <u>haughty</u>: High in one's own estimation; lofty and disdainful in feeling or demeanour; proud, arrogant, supercilious.
- E. <u>pride</u>: The quality of being proud. A high or overweening opinion of one's own qualities, attainments, or estate, which gives rise to a feeling and attitude of superiority over and contempt for others; inordinate self-esteem.
- II. The Christian is called to humility.
 - A. Humility is a chief garment of God's elect. **COL 3:12; 1PE 5:5.**
 - B. Humility is basic to our being Christ-like. **PHIL 2:3-8.**
 - C. A lack of humility towards God and His word keeps many out of the kingdom. **PSA 10:4**; **131:1-2**; **MAT 18:3-4**; **5:3**; **JOH 12:42-43**.
- III. Pride is the antithesis of humility.
 - A. It was fundamental to Satan's downfall. **EZE 28:17; 1TI 3:6.**
 - B. It is on God's "Seven Least Wanted" list. **PRO 6:16-17.**
 - C. It is the forerunner of destruction. **PRO 16:18.**
 - D. "Pride month" is an appropriate but condemning title. **EZE 16:49-50 c/w ISA 3:9**.
- IV. Pride forbids men from coming to terms with their sin nature and their sinning ways. It is the sincere humble heart that God requires and honors. LUK 18:9-14; ISA 57:15.
 - A. Godly sorrow, confession and repentance is the only way that sin is properly handled. **PSA 32:1-6; JOB 42:6; 2CO 2:6-7; 7:10.**
 - 1. The "ostrich complex" which denies the reality of the sin is a sin itself. 1JO 1:8, 10; PRO 14:9.
 - 2. The "fig-leaf complex" which futilely tries to cover sin fares no better. **PRO 28:13; GEN 3:7 c/w JOB 31:33.**
 - 3. The "hardened heart complex" which defies the righteousness of God and His assessment of our sin is especially dangerous.

JOB 9:4; PRO 28:14; 29:1; JER 6:16-17; 44:16-17; ROM 2:5; HEB 3:13.

- B. Humility is a sacrifice for sin that God accepts from us. **PSA 34:18**; **51:17**.
- C. We ought never to consider ourselves above reproach, correction, judgment, learning or improvement. **ROM 12:3; 1CO 8:2; 10:12; PHIL 3:13-15.**
- V. "...God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble" (JAM 4:6).
 - A. There is a store of grace which only a faithful walk may access. **JOH 1:16; ROM 5:2.**
 - B. A faithful walk is one regulated by God's word. **PSA 119:128; PRO 3:5-6.**
 - C. Grace is multiplied unto us through the knowledge of Christ. **2PE 1:2.**
 - 1. The enemy of humility (pride) stifles godly wisdom, knowledge and understanding by which grace is multiplied. **PRO 1:7**; **9:10** c/w **PRO 8:13**.
 - 2. When we proudly defy God's plain instruction, God justly pinches off our

- understanding and withholds the grace we need to be overcomers.
- JAM 4:5-10; 1:21.
- 3. This is called *quenching the Spirit* (1TH 5:19), and *receiving the grace of God in vain.* 2CO 6:1.
- VI. Consider some who learned that grace is withheld or withdrawn from those who will not humble themselves before God and His ways.
 - A. King Saul started out well, but stumbled.
 - 1. God upbraided Saul for his gross disobedience. **1SAM 13:13-14.**
 - 2. Saul did not confess or repent of his sin.
 - 3. He sinned more and suffered the consequences of "too little, too late" repentance. **1SAM 15:23-29.**
 - 4. God withdrew His spirit from Saul. **1SAM 16:14.**
 - 5. Saul made enemies of his friends, family and supporters. **1SAM 18:9; 20:30.**
 - 6. Saul's lack of humility (pride) destroyed him. **PRO 16:18.**
 - B. Israel in the wilderness suffered relatively little while God was preparing them for Canaan, yet they would not humble themselves in the face of goodness or judgment.

 NEH 9:15-17; HEB 3:8-12.
 - C. King Uzziah was mightily helped of God until pride destroyed him. **2CH 26:15-16.**
 - D. Nebuchadnezzar and Herod were judged in an instant for vainglorious pride. **DAN 4:30-33; ACT 12:20-23.**
- VII. Consider some who found that God truly honors the humble.
 - A. Solomon was mightily blessed of God because of a correct early attitude. **1KI 3:7-14.**
 - B. King Josiah, rather than chafing at the coming judgment of God for Judah's sins, humbled himself and effected great reforms in the land. For this, he received grace. **2CH 34:27-28**.
 - C. Even King Manasseh, one of the most vile kings ever, found grace and mercy through humility. **2CH 33:11-13 ct/w 2CH 33:21-24.**
 - D. Humbling oneself before God may defer or reduce judgment. 1KI 21:29; 2CH 12:7.
- VIII. There is a false humility to be avoided. **COL 2:18-23.**
- IX. Hardening the heart, chafing against God's laws and judgments, proud self-exaltation, etc. is the way of sin and destruction.
 - A. By contrast, a humble attitude in the face of your sin, your circumstances, God's laws and judgments, etc., is the way of riches, honour and life. **PRO 22:4.**
 - B. Let men not glory in their power, position, party, possessions or prudence but rather glory in the LORD. **JER 9:23-24; GAL 6:13-14.**
 - C. "But honour is like the shadow, which, as it flees from those that follow it, so it follows those that flee from it." (Matthew Henry)
 - D. "For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted" (LUK 14:11).
- X. (1PE 5:6) Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.