

True Humility

by Wayne Goff

“Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven,”
Matthew 18:4.

Some people struggle with the proper concept of humility. Humbling yourself before God does **not** mean that you should make false estimates of your character before others. Some seem to think that if they utter bitter judgments against themselves that are untrue and unfelt, then somehow they are truly humble!

True humility goes hand in hand with the truth. Humility refuses to be guided by self-pleasing considerations. It includes giving up personal opinions for revealed truth. It is putting aside one's personal preferences when those preferences conflict with God's will.

God-rewarding humility is the giving up of personal profit when one is called upon to do the Lord's work. Jesus calls upon all of us to put **first** the kingdom of God and His righteousness (Matt. 6:33), but few truly do that! (How many ever think of taking “vacation time” from work to faithfully attend a Gospel Meeting or Vacation Bible School? I have actually know **a few** who did just that!)

In Romans 12, the apostle Paul gives us some guidelines on humility: *“Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another”* (v. 10). And again: *“Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion”* (v. 16). Yes, we all give *lip* service to these statements, and we can think of **others** who may be guilty of not doing these things, but what about **us?! You** see, it is hard to evaluate ourselves objectively. So we must **continually** look into the *“perfect law of liberty”* as a mirror of the soul and **examine** ourselves to see if we are in the faith (James 1:25; 2 Corinthians 13:5). Finally, if we think we are humble, then we are not. Humility is not focused on self-interest, but on God and others.

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