

Humble Yourself

Four times Jesus said, "He who exalts himself will be humbled. He who humbles himself will be exalted." (**Matthew 18:4; 23:12; Luke 14:11; 18:9-14**)

Luke 18:9-14

- Humble—not proud or arrogant, low in rank or position; to destroy the independence, power or pride of
- Surely He scorns the scornful, but gives grace to the humble. - **Proverbs 3:34**
- When pride comes, then comes shame; but with the humble is wisdom. - **Proverbs 11:2**
- **James 4:6-10**—Humility puts us in position to resist Satan and to prevail—**1 Peter 5:5-9**

Humility is:

- NOT inferior
- Honest
- Living without hypocrisy
- Yielded strength, like that of a horse or an elephant which is yielded to its master

"Who is the greatest?"—Matthew 18:1-5

- Becoming as a child
 - Unthreatening
 - People must be no more threatened by us than they would be by a child.
 - "Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. - **Matthew 10:16**
 - Innocent
 - We are justified by Christ's death, burial and resurrection. Justified means that we can stand in the presence of God "just-as-if-I'd-never-sinned." We are innocent before God!
 - Until we accept the gift of forgiveness, righteousness and innocence, we will minister to others out of guilt and from our own neediness.
 - We must minister from a position of innocence, which allows us to be more aware and sensitive to the needs of those to whom we are ministering.
 - **2 Corinthians 5:17-21**
 - Believing
 - Children believe what they are told.
 - They are trusting of their parents. As children we trust the Word of our Father.

Beware the hypocrisy of the Pharisees—Luke 12:1-3

- The humble walk in the light.
- The humble have nothing to hide—**1 John 1:5-7**
- Hypocrisy is to appear outwardly to be a certain thing, but inwardly to be something quite different.
- Hypocrisy is to act in contrast to one's stated beliefs.
- The sinful nature tries to hide like Adam did in the Garden.
- Truth sets us free—**John 8:31-36**

Church must be a place of freedom and honesty

- The humble are honest.
- Jesus displayed real emotion without sinning.

- He wept with Mary whose brother had died.
- With a tone of anger he drove the money changers from the temple—**Ephesians 4:25-32**
- Jesus felt abandonment by his own Father on the cross—"My God, my God why have you forsaken me?"
- Confess your faults to one another—**James 5:16**
- Too often the atmosphere of church forces people to hide and to pretend to be something they are not. We dress our bodies well and say the correct things, but inwardly we can be in turmoil, with no way to be open.
- Church is not a showcase for the perfect, but a hospital for sinners.
- As leaders we must create a humble atmosphere of honesty.
- When leaders pretend to always walk in victory in every area always, the people in the church feel inferior and shrink and hide.
- The Holy Spirit allows us to take off our masks and walk openly. We are to be reflecting God's glory as we are being transformed into the image of Christ. We are growing and improving.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. - **Matthew 5:5**