

Clothed in Humility
1 Peter 5:1-7

Humility is not a popular human trait in the modern world...

The basic reason for this is not hard to find: humility can only survive in the presence of God. When God goes, humility goes. In fact you might say that humility follows God like a shadow. We can expect to find humility applauded in our society as often as we find God applauded—which means almost never.

When God is neglected, the runner up god takes his place, namely, man. And that by definition is the opposite of humility, namely, pride. Piper

- I. Jesus set before us a prime example of what it meant to love the Father by being obedient to his will and what it meant to die to self to fulfill God's will. Loving the Father and dying to self are two profound attitudes that were put in our hearts upon salvation. To love the Father by being obedient to his will and to keep ourselves from loving our lives more than him cannot happen without the transforming power of the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:3). He is in the business of changing us for God's glory, if we let him.

Rev. 2:3-4
John 12:24
Phil. 2:6-11

Philippians 1:6 *And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.*

2 Corinthians 3:18 *And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the LORD's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the LORD, who is the Spirit.*

- II. The Christian walk involves much more than having a mere intellectual assent of knowing that we are saved by grace and not by works (Eph. 2:8-9). It involves making a concerted effort to clothe ourselves with the garments of righteousness. We are to put on the armor of light (Rom. 13:12), the Lord Jesus Christ (Rom. 13:14), the new self (Eph. 4:24), and the whole armor of God (Eph. 6:11). None of this is possible without God's enabling grace, which is contingent upon us having a willingness to clothe ourselves with humility.

1 Peter 5:1-6

ἐγκομβόομαι *enkombóomai* - Clothe, knot or band by which two things are fastened together, to fasten or gird one's self

This was the white scarf or apron of slaves, which was fastened to the belt of the vest and distinguished slaves from freemen. Therefore, 1 Pet 5:5 ("gird yourselves with humility as your servile garb") encourages Christians to show their subjection one to another by putting on humility. This could also refer to the overalls which slaves wore to keep clean while working—an exceedingly humble garment. Strong's concordance

Ephesians 4:22-24 *22 to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, 23 and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, 24 and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.*

- III. To humble ourselves under God's mighty hand means that we submit to letting him have his way in our hearts and lives. The alternative is his opposition toward our arrogance in thinking that we know better. Sadly, it will keep us anxious, unsatisfied, and destitute of the grace we desperately need to live in this fallen world. The thing to remember is that he does care for us and loves us very much.

1 Peter 5:6-7
Hoshea 13:5-6
Deut. 8:10,14
Jer. 13:9-10
Ps. 119:21
Prov. 28:25-26b
Isa. 51:12-13

1 John 3:1 *See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!*