

# True Humility

To become and live as a Christian true humility is absolutely indispensable.

Without true humility there can be **no** self-knowledge, **no** repentance, **no** faith and **no** salvation.

All the promises of God are made to the humble person.

**James 4:6** [NIV] *“But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: ‘God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.’”*

A proud person forfeits every blessing that is promised to the humble. Grace encompasses all of the blessings we receive from the Creator God.

All the proud person can expect is judgement.

We should **not** forget that there is false humility which can scarcely be distinguished from the real thing which passes commonly among Christians without their being aware that it is false.

The truly humble person accepts the truth about themselves.

Accepts that they have the nature of a sinner. [**John 1:8**]

Accepts that apart from God they are nothing, have nothing, knows nothing and can do nothing. [**John 15:5**]

This knowledge does **not** discourage the humble person, for they know also that as a Christian they are of value to their Creator God.

**Proverbs 5:21** [King James] *“For the ways of man are before the eyes of the LORD, and he pondereth all his goings.”*

God is well aware of all that we think, say and do, because we are precious to Him as a potential child, created in His image and becoming one who has His likeness [character].

**All pseudo-humility is only pride with a different face.**

A man may condemn himself before God in his prayers as weak, sinful and foolish but would angrily resent the same thing being said about him by his wife or friends.

Such a person may **not** be hypocritical, their prayer of self-condemnation may be completely sincere, and the defence of self may also be sincere.

The person filled with high self-regard naturally expects great things of themselves and are bitterly disappointed when they fail.

The self-regarding Christian has the loftiest moral ideals, they will be the holiest person in the church.

Such people may talk of total depravity, grace and faith, while all the time they are unconsciously trusting in self, promoting self and living for self.

If such people fail to reach their high ideals, they have an attack of conscience, which they mistakenly believe to be evidence of humility, when it is no more than a sour refusal to forgive themselves for falling below their own high opinion of themselves, their pride.

A truly humble person does **not** expect to find virtue in themselves.

They know that any good deed they may do is the result of the Holy Spirit working in and through them.

**John 7:38-39** [NIV] *“Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him. By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.”*

The Holy Spirit within a Christian cannot be static but must flow out of that person in loving deeds for other people to receive.

The emphasis of a truly humble person is focussed on Jesus Christ in their lives **not** on themselves.

Should such a person fail Jesus Christ in any way they will be sorry and repent, but they will **not** spend days castigating themselves for their failure.

It is when we read the writings and lives of people whom God has used in the past in a powerful way that false humility becomes particularly active.

We look at our own *“busy lives”* and we seem to get little or nothing accomplished, so we welter in self-pity and self-condemnation. This self-love can turn into bitterness for our lack of godliness.

Our penitence may easily become a perverted form of envy and nothing more.

There are three *“classes”* of Christians.

- 1) The proud who imagine they are humble.
- 2) The humble who are afraid they are proud.
- 3) The self-forgetful who leave the whole thing in the hands of Jesus Christ.

They will refuse to waste any time seeking to make themselves good under their own power.

Such people will reach the goal far ahead of the rest.

**Philippians 2:1-4** [NIV] *“If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.”*

If we dedicate our lives to serving other people, directing our thoughts and actions away from self, we will **not** be plagued with any false humility.