

## Grace in Humility

### Introduction and Review

- The grace of God gives people the ability to hear from God or understand spiritually (Mt. 11:15a).
- The grace of God gives people the ability to obey what is heard from God or understood spiritually (Mt. 11:15b).
- The grace of God gives people the ability to hear from people or understand spiritually (Jas. 1:19).
- The grace of God gives people the ability to obey wise counsel from people (Jas. 1:19).
- Believers must take care to discern wise counsel from God and other people in order to live by & obey the will of God!

### I. Grace in Humility toward God (Jas. 4:6-10; 1Pe. 5:6)

- A. Pride impedes a relationship with God (Jas. 4:6a-b)  
*God gives the believer grace (special ability) to handle any godly demand in life. The grace of God demands a response from the believer – obedience or disobedience. Pride (in this context) is a sinful attitude of rebellion & independence toward God. “God opposes the proud” means God will bring or allow the consequences of sin – disgrace & destruction (Pr. 11:2; 16:18; Jas. 4:17; Rom. 1:18-32).*
- B. Humility enriches a relationship with God (Jas. 4:6c-10)  
*How is humility accomplished in order to receive more grace from God? “Submit” (ὑποτάσσω) means to willingly place oneself under the authority of God – surrender your will. “Resist” or stand firm against the devil – prayer & the word of God (Eph. 6:11f; Mt. 4:1-11). “Draw near” thru repentance & confession (v. 8-9). When God exalts the humble believer, then God receives the praise (v. 10).*

**APPL:** How do you respond to what you hear from God – prayer, reading scriptures, bible study, sermons, counsel, etc.? How do you respond to what you know is right? Pride rejects & resists God when He calls for change. Pride always leads to disgrace & destruction. Humility willingly accepts the will of God as good & best; and the humble believer willingly obeys God. The grace of God will give you the ability to obey God from your heart!

### II. Grace in Humility toward People (1Pe. 5:5-9)

- A. Pride impedes a relationship with people  
*Pride is also a sinful attitude of independence toward other people. Pride results in bitter jealousy, selfish ambition, quarrels, fights, coveting, ungodly prayers, etc. (Jas. 3:14-4:4; 1Pe. 4:3). Pride is sin & results in even more sin that damages relationships with other people!*
- B. Humility enriches a relationship with people  
*After a believer has become humble before God, then the believer can be humble with people (1Pe. 5:6). Humility in a believer willingly accepts the fact that God has established an order – church (5:5), family (3:1-7), government (2:13-17) & employment (2:18-21). A believer must not worry about submission in humility – prayer is the remedy (5:7; Phil. 4:6-7). A believer must resist the devil’s temptation to pride & rebellion thru prayer (5:8-9; Eph. 6:11f).*

**APPL:** Satan is an adversary battling to keep a believer from being humble – before God & with people. Pride is an inward temptation battling to keep the believer from being humble. But the grace of God gives the believer victory over Satan, pride and every other sin in this battle for humility!

## CONCLUSION

So then my beloved brothers & sisters in Christ, how well are you doing in this battle & struggle for humility? How well are you doing with submission in the church, family, employment & government? If you are struggling with submission to people, then you should examine your submission to God first. Once you have settled your submission to God & His will for your life, then you will find it much easier to willingly accept areas of submission & humility to other people. The amazing grace of God will enable you to be humble before God & with other people without fear or worry about the consequences. Trust in the Lord with all your heart.... Follow the example of Jesus (Phil. 2:5-11).

And if you are not a Christian, you must first humble yourself before God and confess your need for Him; you cannot break free from the power of sin alone; you cannot break free from the penalty of sin alone. You must humble yourself & ask God to help you. He has given Jesus as the way, truth & life... But you must believe in Jesus...

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