



## **RCC Phoenix – 5.15.22 – Humility First**

Proverbs 22:4 The reward for humility and fear of the Lord is riches and honor and life

### **1. Humility in \_\_\_\_\_**

We live in a self-first society and while some would argue that we always have, the paradigm shift has become even more significant over the last few decades. There are many factors that have led to a more self-centered society, such as increased hours at work, higher-paying jobs, social media, greater access to technology, higher-priced luxuries, and an overall “if it doesn’t suit me, or inconveniences me in any way, I’m not going to do it.”

Our nation’s mindset has become, “The more money I have, the more likes, follows, and shares I get on social media, and the more time I spend in the gym, tanning booths, and plastic surgery, the more successful I’ll be.

This is the complete antithesis of what the scripture tells us...

### **Proverbs 22:4 The reward for humility and fear of the Lord is riches and honor and life**

God has never intended for the spotlight to be on us through our own accomplishments but rather for us to be the spotlight to others looking for a Godly example to help them navigate this dark world. This can only be achieved through humility. Throwing off the encumbrance of self and living for God first.

### **2. Humbleness at \_\_\_\_\_**

#### **2 Thessalonians 3**

**6 Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us. 7 For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us because we were not idle when we were with you, 8 nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you. 9 It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate. 10 For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. 11 For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. 12 Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living.**

Paul is telling the church in Thessalonica that work is necessary not only to provide the necessities for their families but to keep them from falling into evils that come with idleness. We must keep in mind that work in the days of Paul and the apostles was very trade-based and required a lot of grueling labor. This required humbling themselves to endure back-breaking labor, sweaty conditions, operating in dust and dirt and working long hours. This act of humility through work, in and of itself was ministering to others through example.

#### **Acts 20:**

**32 “Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. 33 I have not coveted anyone’s silver or gold or clothing. 34 You yourselves know that these hands of mine have supplied my own needs and the needs of my companions. 35 In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’ ”**

It is very hard when considering this current generation to not feel some sort of resentment for the work ethic being displayed. We must remember that by our own examples we are teaching them to work unto the lord. We must also remember that whatever we find to do for work we must do it unto God.

#### **Colossians 3:23**

**Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men**

### **3. Humility with your \_\_\_\_\_**

For more and more families, the needs of the individual have taken precedence over the needs of the family. In the current day, having a spouse and children has often become a status symbol rather than a union of love. Marriage and family are just something you “do” in order to feel fulfilled and in some cases to feel like you haven’t failed at life. This is not an act of selfless love as God intended with a spouse and children but instead self-fulfillment.

#### **Ephesians 5:**

**28 In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, 30 because we are members of his body. 31 “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” 32 This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. 33 However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.**

If we have no intention of changing the focus of our wants and desires for our own selfish pursuits, to the needs, love, and encouragement of our family first, we have no business entering into a relationship and are in-fact irresponsibly doing a disservice to those we bring into the relationship with us. Humility in relationships is putting your spouse and children before yourself just as Christ put us before himself.

#### 4. Humility towards \_\_\_\_\_

##### 1 Peter 2:

**13 Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor] as supreme, 14 or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. 15 For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. 16 Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants] of God. 17 Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.**

Showing humility to our local and federal governments, on the surface, may seem in contradiction to having no other rulers than God, but we must remember that God allows no man to have power unless it is his will. This does not mean we compromise the laws of God to serve the laws of man but what it does mean is following the laws of man as an act of obedience to God and showing others you are doing good in order to silence their foolishness and bring others to Christ through your example.

#### 5. Humility in \_\_\_\_\_

##### Ephesians: 4

**26 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: 27 Neither give place to the devil.... 32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.**

Others will make us angry, and this is a fact recognized in this scripture as “be ye angry, but sin not.” Paul also admonishes us that we must not allow that anger to make us lash out or sin. He also puts in another safeguard by saying we should also not allow our anger to last. Being able to understand your anger but be able to pull it back in is not just a sign of humility but also a sign of emotional intelligence.

**The ability to hold contrary thoughts in your mind—and still be able to function—was famously said by F. Scott Fitzgerald to be “the test of a first-rate intelligence.”**

One of the biggest challenges we face is knowing that we were on the “right side” of an issue and humbling ourselves to forgive and reconcile. We do this with the understanding that the time will most definitely come when we are on the “wrong side” of an issue as will want that same mercy shown. Paul reminds us in this scripture to show that same forgiveness as Christ has shown to us. Let us not forget our Lord’s words. “Forgive them they know not what they do.”

#### 6. Humility as God’s \_\_\_\_\_

When we present the word of God to others we must present it in a way that it comes from someone who was “lost but is found” to someone who is “lost but will be found.” We cannot lose ourselves in our own perceived righteousness but instead follow that same humility in spirit that Christ used with the early disciples. The focus should never be upon ourselves as representatives of God but as God as the source for our salvation.

## Matthew 6:

**1. “Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. 2 “So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. 3 But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.**

We are losing this concept more and more as churches are turning into mega-churches, sanctuaries are turning into laser light shows, and sermons are becoming dog and pony shows with little meat to equip the believers but instead bring them through the door with the promise of the, “greatest show on earth!”

## Matthew 13:

**13 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. 2 Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore**

Jesus did not need theatrics, light shows, dancers, and a hundred-member choir to preach the word of God, he needed a boat and an audience. We must remember that our greatest example taught with his finger firmly pointing toward God and not himself. When we teach the word of God we must do the same. If we fail to do this, we not only bring down the glory and honor from God but we place it firmly upon us becoming an idol to be followed and worshiped and God will show no honor to this.

### Conclusion:

These simple ideas were written so a kindergartener could understand the concept of humbleness but they hold very true for all of us:

- Humility means being willing to \_\_\_\_\_
- To be humble is to be \_\_\_\_\_ about others.
- Humble people \_\_\_\_\_ because they know they don't know \_\_\_\_\_..
- To be humble is to always remember that God is \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and more \_\_\_\_\_.
- Humility is believing what God says is more \_\_\_\_\_ than what you think.
- To be humble is to trust that what God says about you is \_\_\_\_\_.

Humility is not a suggestion but a trait of a true believer. Those who are willing to humble themselves and wash the feet of others just as our Lord will receive riches, honor, and life (Proverbs 22:4) but these rewards are much greater than the riches, honor, and life that man receives on earth. These are the eternal riches of heaven, the honor given by God, and an eternal life with him. There is no greater reward for our humility.