

# Humility

## 1 Peter 5:5-7

### Intro

In C.S. Lewis' *Mere Christianity*, there is a chapter titled *The Great Sin...*

*And in that chapter, Lewis writes the following...*

***“According to Christian teachers, the essential vice, the utmost evil, is Pride. Unchastity, anger, greed, drunkenness, and all that, are mere fleabites in comparison: it was through Pride that the devil became the devil: Pride leads to every other vice: it is the complete anti-God state of mind.”***

*Lewis continues...*

***“The Christians are right: it is Pride which has been the chief cause of misery in every nation and every family since the world began.”***

Tragically, we live in a time in human history where *pride* is exalted above all...

- *Pride* is proclaimed to be a virtue and not a vice by the world around us — and if we are to be faithful believers we must not give in to this ***lie***...

Instead, we are to step away from the ***broad way of pride that leads to destruction*** and walk ***the narrow road of humility***...

And it is this subject of **humility** that Peter writes about in the verses that we will be studying this morning...

*So, if you would please follow along as I read our text...*

### **1 Peter 5:5-7 (NKJV)**

**5 Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for**

**"God resists the proud,  
But gives grace to the humble."**

**6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,**

**7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.  
Peace to you all who are in Christ Jesus. Amen.**

*I do not have an outline this morning so we will simply begin in vs 5 where Peter writes...*

### **5 Likewise**

This word connects us to the previous section where we looked at *exhortations for elders* — *let's look back at those verses...*

### **1 Peter 5:1-4 (NKJV)**

**1 The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed:**

**2 Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly;**

**3 nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock;**

**4 and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.**

*So, Peter exhorted elders and now he shifts his attention to a different group of believers...*

**5 Likewise, you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders.**

Here Peter is exhorting the younger people of Christian fellowships to submit themselves to their elders...

**submit** — *to willingly place oneself under the authority of another in an orderly fashion...[expand]*

Now, it may be that Peter especially highlights the submission of younger people to their elders because *younger people are usually the most rebellious...*

- [expand — rebellion based on growing independence / limited life experience / overestimation of one's ability and importance / great energy and emotion...]

Please notice the phrase **submit yourselves to your elders...**

This is a very important point — true biblical submission cannot be forced — it must be entered into ***willingly***...

A person must **choose** to submit themselves to proper authority — this submission cannot be the result of *compulsion*...

- [ex. A violent criminal being tackled and handcuffed — that is not biblical submission...]

Please understand, Hell is the final destination for those who — in prideful defiance — continually refuse to submit themselves to God's proper authority...

- But it doesn't have to be this way — the Lord Jesus continually reaches out to people and invites them to willingly submit to Him...

He invites them to recognize that He is their Creator and their King and that submission to Him is where **life and freedom** is found...

*The Lord Jesus expressed it this way in...*

**John 10:9-10 (NKJV)**

**9 “I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.**

**10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”**

Jesus continually invites people to submit to Him and find **true life** — but the way of Jesus seems counterintuitive — it goes against our prideful desires...

*But if we are to find true life, we must lay down our pride and humbly follow Him...*

**Matthew 16:24-25 (NKJV)**

**24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.**

**25 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it."**

*Continuing on now in 1 Peter 5:5...*

**Yes, all of you be submissive to one another,**

What does this mean?...

- Are there no leadership roles in the church?...

Is everyone required to do what everyone else tells them to do?...

- Absolutely not — it simply means that believers are to serve one another and to seek the best for one another...

**Mark 10:45 (NKJV)**

**"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."**

*For some further clarity on this subject, please turn to...*

## Philippians 2:3-11 (NKJV)

**3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.**

**4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.**

**5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,**

**7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.**

**8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.**

**9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,**

**10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,**

**11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

As we read the New Testament, it seems clear that the Lord Jesus submitted Himself in the sense of ***doing what was in the best interest of the Father and in the best interest of humanity...***

- But His submission did not involve simply doing whatever it was that people wanted Him to do...

- [expand — as elders we will seek to do what is in the best interest of the people of the fellowship — but we will not simply do whatever people want us to do...]

This was the example of the Lord Jesus — He always did (and still does) whatever is in the ***ultimate best interest of people*** — He doesn't simply give us what we think is best...[expand]

*Continuing on in 1 Peter 5:5...*

**all of you be submissive to one another,  
and be clothed with humility, for  
"God resists the proud,  
But gives grace to the humble."**

The phrase **be clothed with humility** is very interesting...

*One commentator*

***"The Greek word translated 'clothe' is a rare one that comes from a word referring to the apron that slaves put on over their regular clothes."***

- [expand — imagery of actively putting on the slave apron...]

*For the ultimate example of this imagery, please turn to...*

**John 13:1-17 (NKJV)**

**1 Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.**

**2 And supper being ended, the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him,**

**3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God,**

**4 rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself.**

**5 After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.**

**6 Then He came to Simon Peter. And Peter said to Him, "Lord, are You washing my feet?"**

**7 Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this."**

**8 Peter said to Him, "You shall never wash my feet!" Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me."**

**9 Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head!"**

**10 Jesus said to him, "He who is bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you."**

**11 For He knew who would betray Him; therefore He said, "You are not all clean."**

**12 So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you?"**

**13 You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am.**

**14 If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.**



**15 For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.**

**16 Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him.**

**17 If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.”**

*A few things to notice from this passage...*

**1) The ability to clothe yourself in humility comes from a knowledge of who you are in God’s sight — it comes from being secure in Him...[expand]**

**2) No one can clothe you in humility — you must take up the apron yourself...[expand]**

**3) What you wear affects your behavior — [wear clothes you can get dirty...]**

*Please turn back now to 1 Peter 5:5...*

**and be clothed with humility, for  
"God resists the proud,  
But gives grace to the humble.”**

*Here Peter quotes **Proverbs 3:34** as he continues to make his case for the importance of humility in the life of a believer...*

**"God resists the proud,**

**resists** — *setting against in battle array...[expand]*

**proud** — *to shine above; to be arrogant; to consider oneself above...[ex. "I'm a star"]...[expand]*

God sets Himself against the proud — because all pride is false and God sets Himself against everything that is false...[expand]

**Proverbs 16:5 (NKJV)**

**Everyone proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD;  
Though they join forces, none will go unpunished.**

**Proverbs 16:18 (NKJV)**

**Pride goes before destruction,  
And a haughty spirit before a fall.**

*On the other hand, we read that...*

**"God resists the proud,  
But gives grace to the humble."**

**grace** — *"a favor done without expectation of return; the absolutely free expression of the loving kindness of God to men finding its only motive in the bounty and benevolence of the Giver; unearned and unmerited favor"...*

**humble** — *not rising far above the ground...was used to describe the Nile River when it was below normal levels...*

*This is the same word translated **lowly** in...*

### **Matthew 11:29 (NKJV)**

**“Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”**

Now, we understand that though **grace** cannot be *earned* or *merited*, the **condition of humility** must be present for **grace** to be *received*...

- [ex. Go on a hike / out of water and dehydrated / come to a clear and fast running stream / you did not earn or merit that stream but you must get down on you hands and knees in order to drink...]

Now, as we consider once again the phrase "**God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble**" we are struck with the reality that God allows **each one of us** to **choose** the sort of relationship that we will have with Him... 🤔

- We can choose to be **proud** and have a **resistance-based relationship with Him** or we can **humble ourselves** and have a **grace-based relationship with Him**...[expand]

*This seems like a no-brainer to Peter (and to me) — so lets move into vs...*

## **6 Therefore**

*In other words, in light of how God operates...*

**Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God,**

**humble yourselves** — *put oneself in a lower rank...[expand]*

*To see an example of this, please turn to...*

**Luke 14:7-11 (NKJV)**

**7 So He told a parable to those who were invited, when He noted how they chose the best places, saying to them:**

**8 "When you are invited by anyone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in the best place, lest one more honorable than you be invited by him;**

**9 and he who invited you and him come and say to you, 'Give place to this man,' and then you begin with shame to take the lowest place.**

**10 But when you are invited, go and sit down in the lowest place, so that when he who invited you comes he may say to you, 'Friend, go up higher.' Then you will have glory in the presence of those who sit at the table with you.**

**11 For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."**

*Please turn back to 1 Peter 5:6...*

Notice that Peter exhorts all believers to ***humble themselves*** — to put themselves in a lower rank — **under the mighty hand of God...**

**mighty** — *strength which is established and manifested...*

**hand** — *instrument of God's action and power...*

So, as believers we are to humble ourselves under God's powerful hand...

- And as we consider this, humility is simply lining up our lives with reality — we are acknowledging what is actually true...

The fact is that God is **omnipotent** — He is all powerful — and He created everyone and everything *for Himself*...

- Humility allows me to recognize that this is true and that the best thing that I can do **for myself** and **for others** and **for God** is to acknowledge this reality and respond accordingly...

*And this humility on our part opens the door to incredible opportunities as we see at the end of vs 6...*

**humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,**

As we have already read, the one who humbles himself will be exalted...

- When we choose to live in reality — when we choose to recognize God *as He actually is* and recognize ourselves *as we actually are* then we will live in humility...

*And our choice to live in humility gives God the opportunity to exalt us in due time...*

**due time** — *a fixed and definite time;  
an opportune or seasonable time...*

[expand — this **due time** is most likely in the life to come / most believers in the history of the world are not exalted in this life / any exaltation in this life would be temporary...]

*This reality causes me to think of...*

### **Hebrews 11:37-38 (NKJV)**

**37 They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented  
38 of whom the world was not worthy...**

*Now we are brought to the final verse of our study — but let's see how it is connected to vs 6...*

**Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,  
7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.**

Part of humbling ourselves under the mighty hand of God and trusting that He will exalt us in due time is trusting that He cares for us and that we can cast all our cares upon Him...

**casting** — *a once and for all deposit; giving everything to God that would give us concern...*

*Please notice the phrase...*

casting all your care upon Him

**One Greek Scholar**

***“The word “care” is the translation of a Greek word which means “anxiety” or “worry.” The word “all” in the Greek text has the idea, not of every worry that comes along, but the whole of our worries. We are to cast upon God the whole of our worries, that is, come to the place where we resolve to cast the whole of our future worries upon Him, and the result will be that when those things that would otherwise worry us come up, we will not worry.”***

*Now to our final phase...*

**for He cares for you.**

These words can be translated literally, ***“for you are His concern.”***

*Kenneth Wuest writes...*

*“Anxiety is a self-contradiction to true humility. Unbelief is, in a sense, an exalting of self against God in that one is depending upon self and failing to trust God. Why worry therefore, if we are His concern. He is more concerned about our welfare than we could possibly be. Furthermore, since the humbling process has been allowed to come to us in the permissive will of God, and He is using it to accomplish His purpose in our lives, He has it under His control and us in His care. In it all He is concerned about us, therefore, again, why worry?”*

## Conclusion

This brings us to the end of our study but before we close in songs of worship to the Lord, I would like us to turn to one last passage...

- Since we have just seen that worry is a manifestation of pride and a hindrance to humility, we would do well to remind ourselves of what the Lord Jesus had to say on the subject in the Sermon on the Mount...

*So, if you would, please turn to...*

### **Matthew 6:25-34 (NKJV)**

**25 "Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?**

**26 Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?**

**27 Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?**

**28 "So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin;**

**29 and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.**

**30 Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?**

**31 "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'**



**32 For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.**

**33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.**

**34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”**