

GRACE BIBLE CHURCH
 SUNDAY 3-26-2023
 EPHESIANS 0290-056
 DOCTRINE OF GRACE, 32.
 HUMILITY 1.

PHI 2:1 Since therefore there is encouragement in Christ, since there is comfort from virtue-love, since there is fellowship of the Spirit, since there is tenderesses and compassions,

PHI 2:2 Bring to completion my inner happiness [in your life] by thinking the same things, maintaining the same virtue-love [personal love for God, impersonal love for all mankind and occupation with TLJC], united in soul, concentrating on the same objective.

PHI 2:3 Do nothing motivated by contentiousness or ambitious pride.

We continue this morning in verse 3 with the word “but” which is the adversative conjunction *alla* which always sets up a contrast between the first part of the verse with the last part.

We have the definite article *te* and then the instrumental noun *tapeinophrosune*.

This very long noun was first used by Plato to designate the state of mind which submits to the divine order in the universe and does not impiously exalt self.

It is the exact antithesis of arrogance and pride, and it means to be humble or grace-oriented.

1SA 2:3 "Boast no more so very proudly, Do not let arrogance come out of your mouth; For the Lord is a God of knowledge, And with Him actions are weighed.

“*from selfishness*” is the prepositional phrase *kat'* plus the accusative singular noun ***eritheian*** which means selfishness, contentiousness, strife, selfish ambition, self-seeking, divisive self-promotion, out of bad motivation.

Originally this word meant a self-seeking pursuit by unfair means.

The word ***eritheian*** means to gain one's objective by causing strife and factions.

To be petty, to be arrogant, to be divisive, to be a troublemaker.

PHI 2:3 Do nothing motivated by contentiousness or empty conceit,

“*or empty conceit*” is the negative particle ***mede*** which means nor rather than or, and with this we have another prepositional phrase ***kata*** plus the

accusative noun *kemodoxian* which means conceit, excessive ambition, groundless self-esteem, self-delusion, vanity and comes to mean ambitious pride.

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We have the definite article *te* and then the instrumental noun *tapeinophrosune* which means to be humble or grace oriented.

This very long noun was first used by Plato to designate the state of mind which submits to the divine order in the universe and does not impiously exalt self.

This is the other side of the picture of contentiousness or ambitious pride.

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(Y) The Doctrine of Humility.

Point 1. Introduction.

Humility is making a right estimate of oneself.

David said in PSA 130:3 If Thou, Lord, shouldst mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?

One of the manifestations of humility is the fact that you recognize that you are no better than anyone else.

Others may fail in areas that are disgusting and nauseating to you, but you ***remember this***, you have also failed in areas that are disgusting and nauseating to someone else including God.

There is no room for guilt here because of the principles you will learn concerning humility which is the fact that humility is a life-long lesson.

It is the highest form of self-respect to admit mistakes and to make amends for them.

Humility does not consist in hiding our talents and virtues, in thinking of ourselves worse and more ordinary than what we are, but in possessing a clear knowledge in all that is lacking in us and not exalting ourselves.

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The unexamined life is not worth living.

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For many people, the whole purpose of their life is to serve as a warning to others.

MAT 6:34 "Therefore do not be anxious for tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

Did you ever stop and think that *today* is the *tomorrow* you worried about *yesterday*.

Yesterday, you were worried about today, and now today, you're too busy worrying about tomorrow, and on and on it goes.

If everything is coming your way, then you're in the wrong lane.

Wouldn't it be nice if there was an escape hatch for all our problems?

The humble believer recognizes that what others mean for evil, God means for good, in GEN 50:20 "And as for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result,"

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The humble believer recognizes ROM 8:28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God,

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The humble believer recognizes DEU 23:5 That the Lord your God turned the curse into a blessing for you because the Lord your God loves you.

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Prin: Humility is the only true wisdom by which we prepare our minds for all the possible changes of life.

PRO 11:2 When pride comes, then comes dishonor, but with the humble is wisdom.

What makes humility so desirable is the marvelous thing it does to us; it creates in us a capacity for the closest possible intimacy with God.

One of the things that made Moses so great is the fact that we are told in NUM 12:1-3.

She was dark-skinned and very beautiful, and Moses had said that the Jews should not marry someone outside of their own race and Moses married her anyway.

Humility leads to strength and not to weakness.

When we become aware of our humility, we've lost it.

The entire population of the universe, with one exception, (you) is composed of others.

PHI 2:4 do not merely be regarding your own personal interests, but also for the personal interests of others.

The humble person is one who recognizes 1CO 4:7 For who regards you as superior? And what do you have that you did not receive? But if you did receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?

Our society is afflicted by a spirit of thoughtless arrogance from those who have been so magnificently blessed by God.

As David said in PSA 103:2 Bless the Lord, O my soul, And forget none of His benefits;

Where there is appreciation, there is courtesy, there is concern for the rights and property of others.

Where there is gratitude, there is humility, as opposed to pride.

We can look at the glass being half full or half empty.

If you are humble, you are thankful and grateful.

This will impart an added dimension to your character that will give you depth and strength as a person.

How thankful we ought to be for being members of the Church, which gives opportunity and vision and understanding of the great and eternal things of God.

Humility is treating people with the respect we would want, giving people the freedom, we require in our own life.

Humility cannot and does not exist in the cosmic system; it is the first thing to go when you get out of the PPOG.

Humility includes enforced humility and genuine humility, plus objectivity and teachability.

1. Reception.

Retention.

Recall.

The first “R” is reception, in which the pastor communicates Bible doctrine to a group of believers, and the information goes to the believer's human spirit.

The Holy Spirit makes that doctrine *pneumatikos*, i.e., spiritual phenomena, and it then goes to the *nous* or left lobe and becomes gnosis doctrine.

The positive believer has faith perception, the metabolization of that doctrine. by which it goes into the *kardia* or right lobe, where it becomes *epignosis* doctrine.

b. **Retention**, which is *epignosis* doctrine by which we grow in grace, the basis for momentum.

c. **Recall** is the application of *epignosis* doctrine to experience, the basis for creating invisible heroes, the objective of the spiritual life.

Enforced humility is submission to legitimate authority.

Genuine humility is the virtue of complete grace- orientation through perception of Bible doctrine.

Humility must be distinguished from humiliation.

Humility is the virtue of freedom from arrogance.

Humiliation is to reduce your view of self to a lower status in your own eyes or in the eyes of others.

Humiliation is being mortified, while humility is being grace-oriented.

(Y) Point 2. Meaning and Definition of Humility.

While the noun "humble" has many definitions, ranging from "feeling of insignificance and feeling of inferiority" to "low in rank or low in importance," none of these definitions relate to the biblical word.

Humility or being humble in the PPOG, is recognition of the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ and submitting to that authority.

Since the Bible is the mind of Christ, submission to the authority of our Lord is tantamount to consistent perception, metabolization and application of Bible doctrine.

If we become neglectful of doctrine, we are in a state of rebellion; ISA 30:9.

This is what the prophet said, ISA 30:9 For this is a rebellious people, false sons, Sons who refuse to listen to the doctrines of the Lord;

JER 13:10 This wicked people, who refuse to listen to My words,

In biblical humility, the independence of human power and ability is lowered or reduced, so that *dependence* on the power and ability of God are increased to the maximum through the function of grace.

The mandate of Jam 4:10 to "Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, is the function of grace- orientation as a problem-solving device.

This means that humility is a system of divine viewpoint thinking related to grace-orientation and occupation with Christ.

This also means that humility is a system of recognizing the authority of Jesus Christ as the Ruler of the church, and that He has delegated all authority in the Church-age to the Word of God, especially the mystery doctrine found in the Church-age epistles.

This means that humility is a system of cognition of Bible doctrine, resulting in the believer living in the directive will of God rather than the permissive will of God.

(Y) Point 3. Humility is a System of Thinking and a Way of Life.

As a system of thinking, humility is freedom from both subjective and objective arrogance related to Christian degeneracy.

Humility is a system of thinking before it becomes a way of life.

Humility is a comfortable, relaxed system of thinking.

Spiritual self-esteem is the first result of true humility.

In spiritual self-esteem, you no longer feel threatened, have self-pity, and no longer make an issue of yourself in hypersensitivity.

Life's biggest question is whether you're happy, not with others, but with *yourself*.

As a system of thinking, humility is freedom from cosmic one, i.e., from arrogance in any form.

As a way of life, humility is the virtue of grace orientation and occupation with the person of the Lord Jesus Christ.

As a way of life, humility is grace-orientation and capacity for life, to include capacity for love, happiness, and gratitude.

As a way of life, humility includes, as one of its many expressions, a recognition and submission to legitimate authority in life without any feeling of inferiority or of feeling threatened.

Humility must never be defined in terms of legalism, self-effacement, asceticism, or any form of subjective arrogance.

This includes unrealistic expectation, role model arrogance, iconoclastic arrogance, self-righteous arrogance, crusader arrogance, or any of the other things that are mistaken for humility in life.

Humility is not self-effacement, or any form of asceticism or sincerity.

Asceticism is basically adhering a strict system of self-denial, thinking that you are pleasing God.

Humility is mandated by JAM 4:10 Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.

Poise is the expression of humility under pressure or grace dependence upon the Lord.

Courage is the expression of humility under great adversity.

It is the ability to think doctrine under pressure, hence, a combination of grace orientation and doctrinal orientation.

Courage and perseverance have a supernatural power before, which difficulties disappear, and obstacles vanish in the air.

Humility is the basis for thinking under pressure and courage and poise are the clothing which covers such thinking with glory.

Poise is the function of humility in normal life; courage is that function in abnormal circumstances of life.

Humility “cannot” and “does not” exist inside the cosmic system.

Humility is the motivation of your "station in life," as per Eph 4:1.

EPH 4:1 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, entreat you to walk in a manner worthy of your station in life, the calling with which you have been called,

Pro 15:33 "The respect for the Lord is instruction for wisdom, and before honor comes humility."

Pro 11:2 "When arrogance comes, then comes dishonor; but with the humble is wisdom."

Pro 29:23 "A person's arrogance will bring him low, but a spirit of humility will attain honor."

Humility is a mental attitude directed toward yourself.

Then. it is a mental attitude directed toward other people.

Above all, humility is a mental attitude directed toward legitimate authority in life.

Humility is the means by which the PPOG is executed, for humility is one of the productions of the Holy Spirit, Gal 5:23.

Teachability demands enforced humility and genuine humility.

Humility is what keeps the person with a high I.Q. in a teachable state.

1. The authority of the teacher.
2. The content of the message.

- (1) Pre-salvation grace - common and efficacious grace.
- (2) Salvation grace through faith in Christ.

(3) Post-salvation grace - logistical grace.

It responds to establishment truth by submitting to legitimate authority.

Humility responds to the mystery doctrine of the Church-age by executing the PPOG, living inside the PPOG.

When outside the PPOG in the cosmic system, humility uses 1Jo 1:9 instantly.

(Y) Point 4. Humility as a Command and Motivation for Life.