

## The Gracious Life, Part 1 | be humble

**I. Humility is Required to Live Graciously.**

- If you're not humble, you're not gracious. If you're arrogant, prideful, self-consumed, myopic, selfish, greedy, envious, self-worshipping, discontent, untrusting, and/or unthankful, you are not a gracious person.
- Before you scratch all those descriptors from your list, the reality is that you are frequently all of those things. All sin is rooted in pride. All sin is a result of self-worship, and we all sin many times every day without even knowing it. That means that at multiple times during the day — or most of the day for that matter — we are not living graciously.
- In fact, it's possible to act graciously, and still not be gracious because your behavior is completely self-serving.
- So in order to be truly gracious, we must be humble.

**II. Humility is an Outward Orientation.**

- Most people believe that since pride is thinking too highly of oneself, then humility must require that we think poorly of ourselves. But that is not humility since the focus of our thoughts — high or low — are still on us.
- In fact, most people who think lowly of themselves (the world may say they have inferiority complexes, low self-esteem, or simply be shy), those people are very prideful. All they do is think about themselves, how undeserving they are, how unliked they are, how uncool they are. They're always thinking about how other people are thinking about them, and so on.
- Pride and humility are better defined this way: *Pride is thinking about yourself, and humility is not thinking about yourself.*
- A prideful person's gaze is filled with their desires, feelings, plans, and goals, but a humble person is taking his or her cues from something outside of themselves.

**III. True Humility is a Godward Orientation.**

- Matthew 26:39 and John 5:30, 6:38, 8:28, 12:49, and 14:10 all reveal Jesus' purpose on this earth. He was not here to accomplish His own will; He came to do the will of His Father.
- Jesus Christ was humble not because He thought little of Himself. That could not have been further from the truth. Jesus knew He was the way, the truth, and the life. He knew He was the Good Shepherd, but He also knew He was the spotless Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. He was the Son of God, He was the Savior, He was God, and He was the great I Am. And He still is and forever will be. But despite those realities, Jesus the Christ submitted Himself to the will of God the Father to such a degree that He not only said He wasn't here to do His own will, but He exemplified that reality all of the time.
- From His many sacrificial miracles, to His sleepless nights, to His being betrayed, hated, and murdered by His own creation, Jesus' heartbeat was, "Not my will, but yours be done."
- He always obeyed the Father, and He always perfectly loved the people in His life. How could He say He loved the Father if He didn't love His neighbor as Himself. This is why He served and sacrificed and submitted to the people in His life.
- Yes, a person may be humble in a fleshly way when they decide to live an others-centered life, but that decision was still motivated by their own beliefs and desires. Only when a person submits to the command of the Creator of the universe by His power and for His glory can they achieve genuine humility.

#### IV. True Humility is Defined by God.

- **Humility is a choice.** I Peter 3:8, Matthew 18:4, Matthew 23:12, Luke 14:11, Luke 18:14
- **Humble people serve.** Acts 20:18-19
- **Humble people are gentle, patient, tolerant, and diligent to pursue peace.** Ephesians 4:1-3
- **Humble people prefers others above themselves.** Philippians 2:3
- **Humble people are holy, beloved, compassionate, kind, gentle, patient, long-suffering, and forgiving.** Colossians 3:10-13
- **Humble people subject themselves to their authorities.** I Peter 5:5
- **Humble people are Christlike.** Matthew 11:29
- **Humble people are satisfied in God.** Luke 1:52
- **Humble people don't think highly of themselves.** Romans 12:16
- **Humble people are discerning.** II Corinthians 10:1
- **Humble people are dependent on God.** James 1:9
- **Humble people seek other's best interest.** II Corinthians 11:7
- **Humble people are obedient regardless of the cost.** Philippians 2:8
- **Humble people are content.** Philippians 4:11-12
- **Humility is a command.** James 4:10, I Peter 5:6-7

#### V. Conclusion

- Humility is a choice.
- Humility is a command.
- We aren't as humble as we need to be.

The  
Celebration  
of  
God  
podcast