

A Life of Humility

LESSON 9

SELECTED SCRIPTURES

In this lesson we learn why pride is dangerous and humility is desirable.

Pride and humility (gentleness, meekness) are at opposite ends of the self-assessment scale. Pride is focused on self while humility is focused on God and others. Humility doesn't mean we should think less of ourselves. Rather, it means we should think of ourselves less.

Group Questions

1. Discuss why humility is so difficult to cultivate in our day and age.
 - a. Describe the two counterfeits to true humility.
 - b. Discuss how Jesus was the greatest example of humility in human history.
2. What are the two definitions of humility described in this chapter?

Ask the people in your group which of the definitions they like best. Why?

3. Assign one of the seven strategies for cultivating humility to each person in the group. Give them a few minutes to review the strategy and then have them teach it to the group.
4. One sure way to keep our pride in check is to have people around us who are willing to call us out when we are acting prideful or arrogant. Discuss ways to do this in a respectful and loving way in your group.

5. Serving others is a powerful way to grow in humility. Read Philip-
pians 2:3–4.
 - a. How are we to think about other people?
 - b. Brainstorm some ways you can look out for the interests of the other people in your group.
6. Read Psalm 8:3–5.
 - a. How does the psalmist describe humility in these verses?
 - b. Take a minute to contemplate both your smallness and your glory before God. How does this encourage you to pursue a life of humility?

DID YOU KNOW?

When someone says, “He made me feel like dirt” after a humbling experience, he is more right than he knows. The word *humility* comes from the Latin word *humus*, meaning soil or ground. The Latin adjective *humilis* then became “low” or “lowly”—a connection to the ground. Obviously, God doesn't want us to feel like dirt as the equivalent of humility. But it is ironic that “for dust [we] are, and to dust [we] shall return” (Genesis 3:19)—a good reminder that both our beginning and ending have their roots in the ground of lowly humility. Until, that is, God gives us a cloak of glory as our eternal inheritance (Romans 8:18).

Notes

1. Jim Collins, *Good to Great: Why Some Companies Make the Leap . . . and Others Don't* (New York: HarperCollins, 2001), 12–13.
2. Duane Elmer, *Cross-Cultural Servanthood* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2006), 22.
3. Pat Williams, *Humility* (Uhrichsville, OH: Shiloh Run Press, 2016), 93.
4. John Stott, *The Message of Romans* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1994), 330.
5. Tim Chester, “The First Time I Met John Stott,” July 28, 2011, <https://timchester.wordpress.com/?s=stott&submit=Search>.