

# Flow

Part Three: *humility*

December 3, 2023

Last Sunday, I told you that a grace-filled Christian has an attitude of gratitude. Today, I will give you the second characteristic you can use to gauge how much of God's grace you are allowing to flow into your life and out of your life to others.

- **The Bible says God loves humility and hates pride.**

*"You (God) rescue the humble, but you humiliate the proud."* Psalm 18:27, NLT

*"Though the Lord is great, He cares for the humble, but He keeps His distance from the proud."* Psalm 138:6

*"The Lord mocks the mockers but is gracious to the humble."* Proverbs 3:34

*"There are six things the Lord hates— no, seven things he detests: haughty eyes..."* Proverbs 6:16-17a

*"God blesses those who are humble, for they will inherit the whole earth."* Matthew 5:5

*"Those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."* Matt 23:12

The word humble means "to make yourself low." The word was used for a subject bowing prostrate before their king. To humble yourself before God means to submit to His will fully. Jesus is our example of a humble servant of God (Philippians 2:3-11).

### ***Why does God love humility and hate pride?***

- A humble person believes he was created by and for God. A prideful person believes he has no Creator and can be his own god.
- A humble person sees himself as a sinner in need of a Savior. A prideful person sees himself as righteous or able to become righteous on his own.
- A humble person views all people as valuable and deserving of love and respect. A prideful person views all people as less important than himself.
- A humble person gives God credit for all the good things in his life. A prideful person takes credit for all the good things in his life.
- A humble person accepts God's grace. A prideful person rejects God's grace.

Ultimately, this is the biggest reason God loves humility and hates pride. Humility draws a person to the grace of God, while pride shoves a person away from God's grace (James 4:6-10).

### ***James says four things to Christians in 4:6-10:***

1<sup>st</sup> - James tells Christians that God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. Vs. 6

God opposes the proud because the proud oppose Him! God gives grace to the humble because the humble desperately want His grace!

2<sup>nd</sup> - James tells Christians to humble themselves before God and resist the Devil. Vs. 7

God wants us to be humble; Satan wants us to be proud. God wants us to depend on His grace for living; the devil wants us to depend on ourselves.

3<sup>rd</sup> – James tells Christians to take sin seriously. Vs. 8-9

In verses 8-9, James calls Christians to come close to God through genuine repentance and confession so they can receive His grace for living. James calls us to wash our hands, purify our hearts, and mourn over our sins because sin separates us from God's blessings.

4<sup>th</sup> - James tells Christians the Lord will lift them up if they bow before Him. Vs. 10

The proud fall, but the lowly are lifted. The proud are humiliated by the Lord, but the humble are honored! The key to standing in Christ is to bow before Him each day.

### ***Three reasons you need to humble yourself before the Lord:***

1<sup>st</sup> - You need to humble yourself before the Lord to get grace for salvation. Luke 18:9-14

The "poor in spirit" run to God when they see their sinful position. They humbly bow before the Lord, pleading for grace because they know they are dependent on Him for forgiveness and eternal life in heaven!

2<sup>nd</sup> – You need to humble yourself before the Lord to get grace for sanctification.

Sanctification means "to be set apart for holiness." Ephesians 1:4 tells us that God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in His eyes. God saves us to make us holy, but we need His grace to die to sin and live for Him (Romans 6:12-23; 2 Thess. 2:13).

3<sup>rd</sup> – You need to humble yourself before the Lord to get grace for sharing and serving.

Christians still have a sinful nature, so we can sometimes be selfish and self-centered. We need God's grace to become sharing and serving Christians (2 Cor. 8-9; Romans 12:6-10).

We are forgiven, made holy, gifted, and enabled to share and serve by God's grace. God's grace works in us and through us to make us what He wants us to be and do what He wants us to do. God blessed us so we could be a blessing to others!