

Clothe Yourselves With Humility

1Peter 5:5-14

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"...All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

Important principle: If you want God to promote and bless you, humble yourselves. If you want God to oppose and humiliate you, exalt yourselves.

This is an irrevocable biblical principle. It is a Principle by which God operates in his dealing with men and angels. You cannot escape it. God will not make an exception in your case.

"God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

What does Peter mean?

opposed - to rage in battle against an enemy! Peter is claiming that God hates pride and that he actively fights against the plans and purposes of the proud! Cf Ruth Graham: "If God does not bring judgment on America He will have to apologize to Sodom and Gomorrah." A holy priesthood. Are you interceding for America? Are you asking God to use these difficult times to humble American and bring spiritual renewal, or just solve your problems? Not "Give us justice, but give us mercy."

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⁵You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.

⁶Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time,

⁷casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.

⁸Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

⁹But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.

¹⁰After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.

¹¹To Him be dominion forever and ever. Amen.

¹²Through Silvanus, our faithful brother (for so I regard him), I have written to you briefly, exhorting and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it!

¹³She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you greetings, and so does my son, Mark.

¹⁴Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace be to you all who are in Christ.

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But could Peter be right? Proverbs 6:16 – cf Vance Havner:

"The cure for the proud look is Sea Sickness!"

Why does God hate pride and actively oppose the proud?

Because:

- **Pride plunged this universe into judgment (Isa. 14; Ezek. 28).**

- **"I will be like the most high God" - destroys man! Image bearer can only fulfill his mission if he humbles himself before God.**

- **Pride created the chasm between God & man Gen. 3:5 "you will be like God"**

- **Satan uses pride to keep men from coming to the God who created them and loves them and can give them genuine meaning and purpose in life (Rom. 1:18-3:18; Eph. 2:1-3; 2Cor. 4:4).**

- **Pride will keep you from experiencing the grace of God in your life. God wants to pour out his grace on you but all too often it is pride that keeps you from receiving what he is more than willing to give.**

What is God going to do about the pride of man? Isa. 2:10-12 cf Heb 6:5

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**God sets Himself against those who are proud and arrogant. They become His enemies, while the humble receive His blessings and favor freely and abundantly. The humble will have enemies (Satan & world), but the arrogant have God as their enemy. Chose your enemies!
In practical terms how can we, as a church, live humbly before God?
1 Peter 5:5-10 - do three things:
first: See ourselves as servants
second: Accept God's agenda for our lives
third: Don't let Satan turn us into cowards**

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If you want to live humbly before God and let him exalt you:

I. See ourSELVES as servantS (5:5)

• Literally: **"put on the apron of a slave."**

Slave's apron worn by house servant. Had twofold purpose: Identified & prepared Cf Jesus John 13:4

• **What is this apron that you & I are to put on?**

humility: an attitude, a mind-set. Lit. "lowliness of mind"

√ Embracing the truth that God is God & we are His servants

√ A proper perception of yourself and others in light of who God is.

• **Illustration of humility: Phil. 2:3-4 note opposites:**

√ Selfishness: as a hired laborer i.e. for a pay off

√ Empty conceit: as a celebrity i.e. for recognition

• **Having this attitude is determining to do two things:**

1 View your brother as someone you should serve (v. 3)

2 Be just as interested in their welfare as you are in your own (v. 4)

• **Jesus' example (2:5-11)**

Cf. Ramesh Richard: A servant to the servants of the Servant

What can we conclude? You don't have to wear a tie but you had better be

clothed in humility! It is the characteristic attitude for all believers. From

leadership to the youngest believer, humility is like precious oil that creates a

supernatural harmony in the body of Christ. Listen to David in Ps 133

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II. Accept God's agenda for our Lives (5:6-7)

mighty hand of God (6) only here in the N.T. But common phrase in the O.T.

Takes us back to the imagery of the Exodus. Israel was forced to live under persecution, but God delivered them with a mighty hand, an outstretched arm (Ex 15:1-18; Deut 7:19). As they endured the plagues that fell upon Egypt, the eye of faith, understood that these plagues were not their judgment, but indeed their actual salvation. So they had to live under Pharaoh's hard heart and remain in Egypt during the ten plagues. What they learned is that God in His sovereignty uses the sufferings of this present age to give birth to His new kingdom.

• **Humbling ourselves under the mighty hand of God means allowing God to set the agenda for our lives.**

• **Submit to His timing: He will exalt you at the proper time. Just as God exalted His servant Israel after the plagues upon Egypt, just as He exalted His servant Jesus after His crucifixion, so indeed, because you are in Christ, He will exalt you**

• **Submit to His Provision: Casting all your anxiety upon Him**

• **Submit to His Love: Because He cares for you cf Mt 6:25-34**

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III. Don't let Satan turn us into cowards (5:8-9)

Serpent: deception. Lion: viciousness

Peter remembers well how he was sifted like wheat by Satan (Lk 22:31). Prior to the time of Jesus' arrest, he was arrogant and not humble enough to keep praying (Matt 26:33, 41).

Because he was not on the alert he succumbed to the enemy and denied the Lord.

1. Satan's Attack: pride — Cf 1 Tim. 3:6 not a new convert, lest he become conceited and fall into the condemnation of the devil conceited = smoke, rising ever higher in His own estimation of himself.

In trials Satan approaches, says: "you don't deserve this" = God isn't fair!

2. Satan's Goal: to destroy your faith cf 1Thes 2:17ff devour - "to swallow" - speaks of drinking the blood of a victim. How? Undermine your faith → destroy testimony & effectiveness. When you stop trusting Christ Satan has won his victory.

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- See ourselves as servants
- Allow God to set the agenda for our lives
- Refuse to let Satan turn us into cowards

3. Your Defense? Note verse 8 *But resist him, firm in the faith*

1 This is a corporate resistance: shoulder to shoulder (corporate attack)

2 Satan's target is our faith: strength of our faith is dependent upon depth of our understanding of the content of our faith and the TRUST we have in Him Cf Objective ↔ subjective

faith.

Encouragement: 9b What is required of you is nothing more than what others are experiencing around the world, and they are not being devoured by Satan. On the contrary, they are standing firm in their faith, and crushing Satan under their feet (Rom 16:20).