

## Humility

### The Aroma of Discipleship (Part B)

July 31, 2022

#### INTRO ...the Local Church 'House Odor'

"The Puritans liked to talk about the 'tincture' or atmosphere around a minister. This was a wise concern for a quality easily missed. They saw that it is not just the minister's abilities and competence that defines his ministry. His character creates a particular atmosphere around him that people can detect, even if they can't quite put their finger on it."

**Michael Reeves**, *Authentic Ministry*, p. 44

...SGC – "7 Shared Virtues" ...Humility, Joy, Gratitude, Encouragement, Generosity, Mutual Care, and Servanthood

### HUMILITY ...the Soil of All Virtues

"On one occasion, someone approached Augustine and asked, 'What is the most important quality in the Christian life?' Augustine replied, 'Humility.' The person then asked, 'What is the second most important quality in the Christian life?' Again Augustine replied, 'Humility.' This same person asked a third time, 'What is the third most important quality in the Christian life?' Augustine repeated, 'Humility.'" **Wayne Mack**, *Humility*, p. 20

... because Pride is so pervasive in the Human Soul, other virtues would remain inactive and unexperienced, where Humility is Not at Work!

"Humility is not something we are born with. We are born proud, and because of our sinful hearts, we do not naturally seek after God. Psalm 10:4 teaches, 'The wicked, in the haughtiness of his countenance, does not seek Him. All his thoughts are, 'There is no God.' Apart from the grace of God in our lives, we all naturally tend to ignore God and exalt ourselves." **Wayne Mack**, *Humility*, p. 24

"What is pride? Pride consists in attributing to ourselves and demanding for ourselves the honor, privileges, prerogatives, rights, and power that are due to God alone. Thus, it is the very root and essence of sin because pride, at its core, is idolatry of self. A proud person has put himself or herself in God's place. ...Humility, then, consists in an attitude wherein we recognize our own insignificance and unworthiness before God and attribute to Him the supreme honor, praise, prerogatives, rights, privileges, worship, devotion, authority, submission,

and obedience that He alone deserves." **Wayne Mack, *Humility*, p. 25**

"When I look back on my own religious experience, or on the Church of Christ in the world, I stand amazed at the thought of how little humility is sought after as the distinguishing feature of the discipleship of Jesus. In preaching and living, in the daily activities of the home and social life, in the more special fellowship with Christians, in the direction and performance of work for Christ—how much proof there is that humility is not esteemed the cardinal virtue. It is not considered the only root from which the graces can grow, and the one indispensable condition of true fellowship with Jesus." **Andrew Murray, *Humility*, p. 6**

### ***PRIDE requires a Misinformed Understanding of Self AND the Grand Scheme of Creation!***

...This was how Pride went off in Satan

...Pride always ends up enlarging us and diminishing God!

### ***HUMILITY—in its simplest function—Simply Puts Things in Their Proper Place***

**Hebrews 1:1-12** Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup> but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. <sup>3</sup> He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. ...

<sup>10</sup> And, "You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands;

<sup>11</sup> they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment,

<sup>12</sup> like a robe you will roll them up, like a garment they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will have no end."

...Humility begins by painting an accurate picture of the Transcendent, Exalted, Omnipotent, HOLY God who is the Source of All and Greater Than All!

**Heb 2:6** "...What is man, that you are mindful of him..."

...You Cannot and Must Not Try to Answer the Question of "Who/What is Man?"—until you've answered the Question "Who/What is God?"!!!

**Rom 9:20-21** But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, "Why have you made me like this?" <sup>21</sup> Has the potter no right over the clay,

...When man puts God at a Distance and Answers His Self-Definition Question—He Invariably Gets At Odds with God!

...The "Shock" in the Voice of This Passage Gets Created by the Simple Rightness that "Creation Answers to the Creator—NOT the Other Way Around!"

**"Humility" Describes Man's PLACE in Creation!** ...It interacts with the Age-Old Question: **"Who Do You Think You Are?"**...

...The Way We Answer That Question Creates a Certain Kind of AROMA!

...Man's Self-Definition—AND—Man's Engaging of God's Definition/Calling for Him REQUIRES an Accurate Understanding of GOD!!

**Isaiah 40:9-18** "Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!"

...<sup>12</sup> Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand and marked off the heavens with a span, enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure and weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance?

<sup>13</sup> Who has measured the Spirit of the LORD, or what man shows him his counsel?

<sup>14</sup> Whom did he consult, and who made him understand? Who taught him the path of justice, and taught him knowledge, and showed him the way of understanding?"

...There is NOTHING that we know that Originates with Us! We Never Start from Scratch—like the Creator Did!

<sup>15</sup> Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket, and are accounted as the dust on the scales; behold, he takes up the coastlands like fine dust.

<sup>16</sup> Lebanon would not suffice for fuel, nor are its beasts enough for a burnt offering.

<sup>17</sup> All the nations are as nothing before him, they are accounted by him as less than nothing and emptiness."

***...Isaiah is Attempting to Create***

**SCALE!** ...the Things that are REALLY BIG to us, well they're "Less than Nothing" to God!

... [CONTEXT]

<sup>18</sup> To whom then will you liken God, or what likeness compare with him?

***Humility "Puts Us In Our Place"***

***...THEN—It Informs Our Relationships with Each Other!—It Gives Off an AROMA in Our Relational Settings!***

NOTE: Reformed Theology is in essence "God-Centered-Theology"  
 ...it begins its understandings of the universe, of history, of right/wrong, of good, etc. with the CREATOR! It SEEKS and Protects His Glory above all others.

...It does not Ignore Man, but it does not make God and creation and events and morals and right/wrong first Answer to Man!

- ***Humility Informs Our Sense of Purpose and Meaningfulness***

God created All Things FOR HIS GLORY  
 ...Thus Everything Answers to THAT!! ...whether something is valuable or worthy or ok to exist cannot merely be answered by my personal perspective...

- ***Humility Informs Our Salvation and Status as God's People (It Comes with a "NO-Boasting-Clause")***

...God's Act of Salvation is the Insistence of God Putting His Mercy on Display

...God's Act of Election in Salvation is the Insistence of Salvation Reaching Man ...because man's human depravity would have kept every person from turning to God in repentance and faith!

**Eph 2:8-9** "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,<sup>9</sup> not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

**Rom 11:5-6** "So too at the present time there is a remnant, chosen by grace. <sup>6</sup> But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace."

**Rom 3:21-27** But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— <sup>22</sup> the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup> whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. <sup>26</sup> It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

<sup>27</sup> Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded.

— ***God has vigorously installed an 'anti-boasting' clause in His Creator/Creation***

***relationship!*** ...At the end of Creation's Beauty or Intelligence or Talent or Decisions—the Glory Goes to GOD and to God ALONE!

- ***Humility Informs Our Relationships with Each Other***

...We are a Gathering of "Charity Cases"!

**Eph 4:1-3** I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, <sup>2</sup> with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, <sup>3</sup> eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

**1 Peter 5:5** Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

*...A Church that is Infused with an Understanding of God's Grace in Salvation—SHOULD give off the Aroma of HUMILITY! ...Where "Grace" is Installed, there's a Proper Sense of SCALE by which we can measure ourselves!*

ILLUST: Shaquille O'Neal among the Average Person ...If “Size” is a reason for Boasting—Shaquille Wins—as long as He Carefully Picks His Competition!

— Because Pride wants Greatness for itself!! ...Pride wants to be perceived by others as BIG!! ...Once I Bring GOD into the Discussion of “BIG”—**Humility wants you to Notice HIM!!!**

"...nothing is more natural and beautiful and blessed than to be nothing, so that God may be all. ...It is the soul, led through its sinfulness to be occupied with God in His wonderful glory as God, as Creator and Redeemer, that will truly take the lowest place before Him." **Andrew Murray**, Humility, p. 6

“A truly humble person has an abiding sense of his natural insignificance, as compared to God. Abraham exhibited this attitude when he said, ‘Now behold, I have ventured to speak to the Lord, although I am but dust and ashes.’ (Gen 18:27). Abraham was deeply aware of the incredible insignificance of his knowledge and understanding compared to the wisdom of God. ...Humble people have a great sense of their ignorance, their weakness, and their unimportance. They know that if ‘the nations are like a drop from a bucket; in God’s eyes (Is. 40:15), then they are far, far less than that. They recognize the insufficiency of their own power. They understand that only God is omniscient, omnipresent, omnipotent, all-wise, full of grace and truth and righteousness. They realize they are totally dependent on God for everything wisdom, health, safety, and even the ability to obey. In fact, it is only by God’s grace that we can even do anything that pleases Him.” **Wayne Mack**, Humility, p. 26

— The END GAME for Humility is NOT How I Compare to YOU—It’s How I Understand Myself, when I Stand in the Presence of God!!