

August, 2008

Pause Ponder Profit

The Ever Present Need For Humility

by Dan Richardson

“Yea, all of you gird yourselves with humility, to serve one another: for God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace to the humble” (1 Pet. 5:5).

There are few things more repulsive to me than arrogance. Such is not to suggest that I’ve never had to deal with this problem within myself — I have. I recall times in my life, especially when much younger, even as a “young preacher” (a designation I can no longer claim), when with reference to pride, my “slip” was showing as an older generation with nothing but good intentions sought to give me much needed advice or correction. I certainly appreciate it now, and am thankful to God for those who loved me and were concerned enough about me to give their counsel. However, in my youth, my ego caused me to be less receptive to it then. Every Christian must guard against pride, and from what I hear and observe, the sin of pride remains, yes, even among God’s people. Pride is a most useful tool of Satan, and because of it, many are hindered from obedience to the truth, and faithful

service to God and others. The above scripture rings out crystal clear regarding what God expects of us in this area, and not one of us is excluded. To sense no need for such in one’s life is all the more evidence of the problem.

The young and old need humility. The so-called “generation gap” between the young and old is, in my opinion, caused primarily by pride on one or both sides. Both groups need to acknowledge the value of the other; God’s word teaches us the value of both: *“The glory of young men is their strength; and the beauty of old men is the hoary (gray or white, DR) head”* (Prov. 20:29). The older generation cannot arrogantly look with disdain upon our younger generation, as if to suggest they are incapable of faithfully serving and obeying God in their youth. Too much Bible instruction and examples are given to show otherwise (Eccl. 11:9-12:1; Acts 16:1-2; 2 Tim. 3:14-15; cf. Joseph, David, Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, Timothy, etc.). But neither should the younger view the aged with contempt, as if they are out of touch with reality and unable to give valued instruction and sound wisdom from God’s truth or personal experience (they were once young too). Children should respect, honor and obey their parents (Eph. 6:1-3), and show a general respect for all their elders — a quality sadly lacking today: *“Likewise, ye younger, be subject unto the elder . . .”* (1 Pet. 5a). There’s room for humility in both!

Preachers need humility. I have been made aware of what seems to be an increasing problem of arrogance on the part of we preachers. While preachers, blessed with more time for Bible study, may have more knowledge

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than many, such doesn't eliminate the need for humility. To the contrary, it demands more because "*knowledge puffeth up, but love edifieth. If any man thinketh he knoweth anything, he knoweth not yet as he ought to know*" (1 Cor. 8:2-3). Paul instructed the younger preacher Timothy to "let no man despise thy youth" (1 Tim. 4:12), but such doesn't give license for young preachers to arrogantly refuse instruction and correction from others. Instead, it is warning that he not behave in such a way so as to bring reproach on himself (like by being arrogant). Having preached the gospel for 30 years, I feel a little more qualified to say something about this to the younger men who preach, so here it is (my advice to young preachers): Preaching isn't about show nor reputation, but rather serving God and others with humility and love in the labor of saving souls! Humility is a part of the wisdom from above bearing the fruits of righteousness sown in peace, but arrogance is "earthly, sensual, devilish," resulting in jealousy, faction, confusion and every vile deed (Jas. 4:13-18). Fellow preachers, both young and old, don't make the mistake of letting your knowledge and ability give you the "big head"! Your academic knowledge of the scriptures doesn't make you wise. Practicing what you preach does!

Elders need humility. Their charge to shepherd the flock (Acts 20:28), doesn't suggest arrogance, but demands humility. Paul's first charge to the elders from Ephesus was "take heed unto yourselves" (vs. 28), and later he reminded them of his example to them ". . . to help the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that he himself said. It is more blessed to give than to receive" (vs. 35). Peter also instructed elders, who "*tend the flock of God which is among you, exercising the oversight*" not to be guilty of "*lording it over the charge allotted to you, but making yourselves ensamples to the flock*" (1 Pet. 5:2-3).

Husbands and wives need humility.

Arrogance in the marriage relationship is a major contributor to many marital problems. True, wives are to be in submission to their husbands and husbands are the head of their wives (Eph. 5:22-23), but such does not suggest slaves nor tyrants. Husbands "*love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it*" (vs. 25). Christ showed His love for the church by humble service and sacrifice on the cross. He did not come to be served, but to humbly serve others, as exemplified when He washed His disciple's feet (John 13:12-17). Men, the best qualification of a good husband is to be Christ-like. Also, wives are commanded to love their husbands and children (Titus 2:4). True love, as husbands and wives are to have for each other, "*vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not its own*" (1 Cor. 13:5-6). As "joint-heirs of the grace of life" (1 Pet. 3:7), husbands and wives must show humility toward each other in the marriage relationship.

All Christians need humility. Any one of us, following the example of Diotrophes, who "*loveth to have the preeminence*" (3 John 9-11), falls under the same condemnation he did. Many of the "church problems" today would disappear if every Christian would "*not think of himself more highly than he ought to think*" (Rom. 12:3), and would "*in lowliness of mind each counting other better than himself; not looking each of you to his own things, but each of you also to the things of others*" (Phil. 2:3-4). But the question remains, "Do we have enough humility to receive and obey these commands?"

The way of life winds upward for the wise. That he may turn away from hell below. Proverbs 15:24

Support Your Local Church

by Jim Everett

Within the last several months we have observed signs in many front yards that say, "We support our President and our troops." Depending on which social interest one has, appeals are made to, "Support your local PTA... boy scouts...girl scouts...community projects... fire department...police, etc." People have no problem understanding that "support" means to get behind them, encourage them, stand behind what they are doing, give money to help, commit yourself to what needs to be done, etc. It means to be proud of them and their efforts. But more than anything it means to GET INVOLVED in some way -- you can't support something while remaining detached and aloof.

We should want to be strong Christians, to build up other Christians and to save the lost. In doing this we need the help of other Christians. This is why we should want to support the local church – NOT TO MAKE AN IMPRESSION BY NUMBERS, BUDGET, OR EDIFACE.

But to have a strong congregation there must be some loyalty to the group -- such loyalty is not a displacement of or substitute for loyalty to Christ. There is no implication here that this is different from Christ loyalty or that it is putting the kingdom before the King. Neither is group loyalty and association an end within itself. Just belonging to a congregation and being a loyal worker does not mean one will go to heaven. My relationship to a congregation of God's people grows out of my relationship to God and not the reverse; however, my strong support of our together relationship is directly related to how loyal I am to Christ.

Based on Christ loyalty, group loyalty is essential to a strong together relationship. In our marriages, we must put the relationship before

our individual preferences. So it is true in congregations -- we must put our brother to brother relationship before our own personal likes and dislikes. What is good for the congregation should motivate us, as long as it is scriptural. This congregation needs the commitment, interest, enthusiasm and loyalty of all the members in order to be the most effective in its work. It needs the mutual encouragement that comes from assembling together. It also needs the emotional support of all the members to its leaders, a willingness to share in the workload, and the financial support of every member to do the God-given work. You cannot have a strong, active congregation without the support of ALL of those who belong to it. Just a few who have an "us" versus "them" attitude can greatly hamper the effectiveness of many others who are diligently trying to do the Lord's work.

"Members-at-large," "perpetual visitors," or "floating members" destroy a brother-to-brother relationship. What would this congregation be, if every member were like me? Would there be a congregation here? If so, what would it be like -- strong, weak, indifferent, growing? Based on my knowledge, would it be a congregation which teaches the truth and is sound doctrinally? Based on my teaching, how much would others know? Based on my interest would it be alive or dead? Based on my efficiency would it be a congregation that was doing God's work?

He who covers his sins will not prosper. But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.

Proverbs 28:13



Gospel Facts We Must Heed

Life is short

"For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away." (James 4:14)

Death is certain

"And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment," (Heb. 9:27)

Judgment is sure

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad." (2 Cor. 5:10)

Salvation By The Blood

Heb. 9:22

What Saves? <i>The Blood</i>	When Does It? <i>In Baptism</i>
Jn. 19:32-34	Rom. 6:3
Matt. 26:28	Acts 2:38
1 Jn. 1:7	Eph. 5:26
Rev. 1:5	Acts 22:16
Heb. 9:14	1 Pet. 3:21
Acts 20:28	Acts 2:41, 47
Rom. 3:25	Mk. 16:16

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Sunday

Radio 1490 AM .

Bible Study

Worship.....

Worship.....

Worship.....

Worship.....

Worship.....

Worship.....

Worship.....

Worship.....

Worship.....

9:00 A.M.

9:45 A.M.

10:45 A.M.

6:00 P.M.

7:00 P.M.

7:00 P.M.

7:00 P.M.

7:00 P.M.

7:00 P.M.

7:00 P.M.

7:00 P.M.

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