

Fruits of Humility

I. Introduction

A. The command to humble ourselves is key to fulfilling a number of responsibilities God gives us. Consider six examples of things God demands that require humility. **James 4:10**

II. Reverence

A. God desires us to have a proper reverence and godly fear, respecting Him as our Ruler. **Hebrews 12:28**

B. Such reverence requires humility. While those who are proud view themselves as their “own boss,” the humble acknowledge God as the authoritative Master who has the power to do what He wants with us. **Exodus 5:2; 10:3**

III. Teachableness

A. One who reveres God is ready to accept His instruction (cf. **Prov. 1:7**). This ties in with a second “fruit” of humility, teachableness. While pride leads to views like, “I’ve already got it all figured out,” or “I know best,” *humility* leads to the understanding that *God* knows best. We must humbly recognize that we are spiritual sheep who have no idea how to spiritually care for ourselves without the guidance of our Shepherd. **Proverbs 11:2; Psalm 25:9**

IV. Sincere Self-examination

A. Another command of God that demands humility is self-examination. Many are too proud to admit when they are wrong and arrogantly approach self-examination with the pre-determined conclusion that no corrections are needed. To see ourselves as God does, we must approach self-examination with humble sincerity. **John 7:47-49** (cf. **Jas. 4:8-9**)

V. Submission

A. Learning God’s will and examining oneself must be accompanied with submission to God’s will. Such submissiveness also demands humility. Just as Jesus humbled Himself by voluntarily subjecting Himself to the Father’s will, we must have the humility to submit ourselves to God’s instruction (and to submit ourselves to *others* in ways that are appropriate). **Philippians 2:8**

VI. Servitude

A. Jesus’ humbling of Himself is also exemplified by His choice to take upon the form of a servant (cf. **Phil. 2:7**). Being a servant requires humility. Instead of exalting self in pursuit of preeminence like the Pharisees of Jesus’ day, we should be content to be servants. **Matthew 23:5-12; John 1:23, 27; 3:30**

VII. Modesty

A. Humbling ourselves is also about having a modest view of ourselves. Upon surrendering to God’s will, the proud boast in self. The humble, on the other hand, credit God for allowing doomed sinners to be transformed into fruit-bearing servants. Humility produces gratitude and an attitude of dependence, instead of boastful self-glorification. **Luke 18:9-14; 1 Corinthians 15:9-10**

VIII. Conclusion

A. Humility is something that each of us *can* and *must* put on. May we have humble attitudes toward God and our fellow man, as our Master commands. **Colossians 3:12**