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Humility Study Guide

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Chapter 1 – Humility: The Glory of the Creature



Prayer

Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance as you begin reading and completing this. Ask for clarity and insight as you engage in God's Word and the author's writings.

Read the chapter completely before continuing with this study guide.



Scripture Reading

The twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying, "Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created."
(Revelation 4:10-11)

Central Idea

Humility, the place of entire dependence on God, is, from the very nature of things, the first duty and the highest virtue of man. It is the root of every virtue.

Highlights

- And so pride, or this loss of humility, is the root of every sin and evil.
- Then he will see that humility is simply acknowledging the truth of his position as man and yielding to God His place.
- Such humility is not a thing that will come on its own. It must be made the object of special desire, prayer, faith and practice..
- . . . there is nothing so natural to man, nothing so insidious and hidden from our sight, nothing so difficult and dangerous, as pride.

How would you concisely describe the central idea for this chapter?

What were the highlights for you?



Observation

What does this verse(s) and these statements say about:

God?

Sin and evil?

You?



Interpretation

What is our destiny as a child of God?

How do we obtain humility?



Personal Application

As you struggle with pride in your life, what will you commit to do to become less prideful?

Notes:

Chapter 2 – Humility: The Secret of Redemption



Prayer

Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance as you begin reading and completing this. Ask for clarity and insight as you engage in God's Word and the author's writings.

Read the chapter completely before continuing with this study guide.



Scripture Reading

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name. (Philippians 2:5, 7-9)

Central Idea

Humility, the place of entire dependence on God, is, from the very nature of things, the first duty and the highest virtue of man. It is the root of every virtue.

Highlights

- It is from our pride we need, above everything, to be redeemed.
- Christ is the humility of God embodied in human nature.
- If humility is the root of the tree, its nature must be seen in every branch, leaf and fruit.
- Pride seeks only itself.

How would you concisely describe the central idea for this chapter?

What were the highlights for you?



Observation

What does this verse(s) and these statements say about:

Jesus?

Pride?

You?

Interpretation

What causes our need for redemption?

How will you make humility your "root"?



Personal Application

Do you struggle with pride, and if so, what are some things you can do to work on this struggle?

Notes:

Chapter 3 – Humility in the Life of Jesus



Prayer

Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance as you begin reading and completing this. Ask for clarity and insight as you engage in God's Word and the author's writings.

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Scripture Reading

For who is the greater, one who reclines at table or one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at table? But I am among you as the one who serves. (Luke 22:27)

Central Idea

Jesus Christ was nothing, in order that God would be all. He resigned Himself with His will and His powers entirely for the Father to work in Him.

Highlights

- In the Gospel of John, Jesus speaks of His relationship with the Father. See how often He uses the words "not" and "nothing" when referring to Himself.
- Christ was nothing, so that God may be all.
- . . . self has nothing good in it except as an empty vessel.
- The root of all virtue and grace – of all faith and acceptable worship – is that we know that we have nothing but what we receive, and bow in deepest humility to wait upon God for it.
- . . . are you clothed with humility? Ask your daily life. Ask Jesus. Ask your friends. Ask the world.

How would you concisely describe the central idea for this chapter?

What were the highlights for you?



Observation

What does this verse(s) and these statements say about:

Jesus?

Receiving versus serving?

You?



Interpretation

What does it mean to “Ask your daily life. Ask Jesus. Ask your friends. Ask the world.”?

What does it look like in your life and in your routine “to serve”?



Personal Application

How can you begin to move attention away from yourself and more towards God and Jesus?

Notes:

Chapter 4 – Humility in the Teaching of Jesus



Prayer

Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance as you begin reading and completing this. Ask for clarity and insight as you engage in God's Word and the author's writings.

Read the chapter completely before continuing with this study guide.



Scripture Reading

Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. (Matthew 11:29)

... and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. (Matthew 20:27-28)

Central Idea

Whoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant.

Highlights

- He expects men, and especially His disciples, to be as humble as He was.
- Meekness and lowliness is the one thing He offers us; in it we will find perfect rest of soul.
- The Greek definition of meek was one who is trained and trusted; power under authority; strength under control
- Humility, as it is the mark of Christ the heavenly, will be the one standard of glory in heaven. The lowliest is the nearest to God.

- Just as water always seeks and fills the lowest place, so the moment God finds men abased and empty, His glory and power flow in to exalt and to bless. (
- My one need is humility. And let us believe that what He shows, He gives; what He is, He imparts. As the meek and lowly One, He will come in and dwell in the longing heart.

How would you concisely describe the central idea for this chapter?

What were the highlights for you?



Observation

What does this verse(s) and these statements say about:

Jesus?

The world's view of importance and stature?

You?



Interpretation

What does it look like for you to try and be as humble as Jesus was?

Can you think of some examples where you intentionally took a back seat to serve others?



Personal Application

Make a list of 3-5 things that you routinely do that might be different if God had His way with you. Example: Your spouse would like to sit at the table and enjoy a cup of coffee with you, but it is right in the middle of your favorite movie or show?

Notes:

Chapter 5 – Humility in the Disciples of Jesus



Prayer

Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance as you begin reading and completing this. Ask for clarity and insight as you engage in God's Word and the author's writings.

Read the chapter completely before continuing with this study guide.



Scripture Reading

But not so with you. Rather, let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves. (Luke 22:26)

Central Idea

Humility is one of the chief and highest graces, yet is one of the most difficult to attain.

Highlights

- . . . humility is one of the chief and highest graces . . . it is the most difficult to attain . . . It is a grace that only comes in power.
- Time after time, He had spoken to them (the disciples), the Pharisees, to the multitude, about humility as the only path to the glory of God.
- And yet all had learned so little. At the Last Supper there was still contention as to who should be greatest.
- . . . no personal resolve of effort, however sincere and earnest – can cast out the devil of pride
- We have our pride from Adam; we must have our humility from another, too.

- It is only where we, like the Son, truly know and show that we can do nothing of ourselves, that God will do all.

How would you concisely describe the central idea for this chapter?

What were the highlights for you?



Observation

What does this verse(s) and these statements say about:

Jesus?

Being first or being last?

You?



Interpretation

Where do we find the power of humility?

If we inherit our pride from Adam- its genetic. Why or why wouldn't that be a valid excuse?



Personal Application

What simple steps can you take during the week to serve others – who and how?

Notes:

Chapter 6 – Humility in Daily Life



Prayer

Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance as you begin reading and completing this. Ask for clarity and insight as you engage in God's Word and the author's writings.

Read the chapter completely before continuing with this study guide.



Scripture Reading

If anyone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. (1 John 4:20)

Central Idea

Our humility towards men will be the only sufficient proof that our humility towards God is real.

Highlights

- What a solemn thought, that our love to God will be measured by our everyday fellowship with men and the love it displays.
- Yet, humility toward men will be the only sufficient proof that our humility before God is real.
- . . . you must follow Him in the common course of daily life.
- The humble man feels no jealousy or envy. He can praise God when others are preferred and blessed before him. He can bear to hear others praised and himself forgotten, because in God's presence he has learned to say with Paul, "I am nothing."

- And let us ask our brethren, and ask the world, whether they recognize in us the likeness of the original.

How would you concisely describe the central idea for this chapter?

What were the highlights for you?



Observation

What does this verse(s) and these statements say about:

Jesus?

Demonstrating our humility towards others?

You?



Interpretation

Why do you think that God looks to our humility on earth as a reflection of our true humility?

What are some of your struggles with envy or jealousy towards others?



Personal Application

How do you think your inner circle (spouse, family, friends, co-workers) would rate you on your demonstration of humility and Christ-likeness? If you've never done so, ask them.

Notes:

Chapter 7 – Humility and Holiness



Prayer

Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance as you begin reading and completing this. Ask for clarity and insight as you engage in God's Word and the author's writings.

Read the chapter completely before continuing with this study guide.



Scripture Reading

I was ready to be sought by those who did not ask for me; I was ready to be found by those who did not seek me . . . who say, "Keep to yourself, do not come near me, for I am too holy for you." (Isaiah 65:1a, 5a)

Central Idea

The great test of the holiness we profess to seek or to attain, is truth and life, will be whether it be manifest in the increasing humility it produces.

Highlights

- The one infallible test of our holiness will be the humility before God and men which marks us.
- The chief mark of counterfeit holiness is its lack of humility.
- The holiest will always be the humblest. There is none holy but God.
- There is no pride so dangerous, none so subtle and insidious, as the pride of holiness.

How would you concisely describe the central idea for this chapter?

What were the highlights for you?



Observation

What does this verse(s) and these statements say about:

Humility vs. holiness?

The pride of holiness?

You?



Interpretation

What character trait can “creep in” and destroy both holiness and humility?
Explain.

Does humility lead to holiness or does holiness lead to humility?



Personal Application

Between the two, which attribute do you find yourself striving towards – humility or holiness? Which one will become your focus?

Notes:

Chapter 8 – Humility and Sin



Prayer

Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance as you begin reading and completing this. Ask for clarity and insight as you engage in God's Word and the author's writings.

Read the chapter completely before continuing with this study guide.



Scripture Reading

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. (1 Timothy 1:15)

Central Idea

Jesus earnestly taught the virtue of humility without any reference to sin.

Highlights

- Humility is the very essence of holiness and of blessedness.
- It is the displacement of self by the enthronement of God (worship). Where God is all, self is nothing.
- God's grace has saved Paul (*replace Paul's name with your own!*); God remembered his sins no more; but never could he forget how terribly he had sinned.
- It is not sin, but God's grace showing a man and constantly reminding him what a sinner he was, that will keep him truly humble.
- Not to be occupied with your sin, but to be occupied with God, brings deliverance from self.

How would you concisely describe the central idea for this chapter?

What were the highlights for you?



Observation

What does this verse(s) and these statements say about:

Sin?

Grace?

Self?



Interpretation

How does our focus on our own sin, defeat our desire to be truly humble?

What role does God's grace play in our journey towards humility?



Personal Application

What steps do you need to take to focus on God's grace and to set aside prideful thoughts of self?

Notes:

Chapter 9 – Humility and Faith



Prayer

Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance as you begin reading and completing this. Ask for clarity and insight as you engage in God's Word and the author's writings.

Read the chapter completely before continuing with this study guide.



Scripture Reading

How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God? (John 5:44)

Central Idea

Faith is the organ or sense for the perception and apprehension of the heavenly world and its blessings.

Highlights

- Jesus discloses to us that it is indeed pride which makes faith impossible
- We can never have more of true faith than we have of true humility
- Humility is simply the disposition which prepares the soul for living on trust
- You will be freed from the glory of men and of self, and be content and glad to be nothing
- Pride renders faith impossible

How would you concisely describe the central idea for this chapter?

What were the highlights for you?



Observation

What does this verse(s) and these statements say about:

Faith?

Trust?

Contentment?



Interpretation

What does it mean that “We can never have more of true faith than we have of true humility”?

How do we “seek the glory that comes from the only God”?



Personal Application

What steps can you take to exercise true faith and grow into true humility?

Notes:

Chapter 10 – Humility and Death to Self



Prayer

Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance as you begin reading and completing this. Ask for clarity and insight as you engage in God's Word and the author's writings.

Read the chapter completely before continuing with this study guide.



Scripture Reading

And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (Philippians 2:8)

Central Idea

Death is the ultimate means to remove our sinful nature.

Highlights

- Humility must lead us to die to self.
- Humility leads to perfect death. Humility means the giving up of self and becoming perfect nothingness before God.
- If you want to enter into a full fellowship with Christ in His death, and know the full deliverance from self, humble yourself. This is your one duty.
- Beware of the mistake that so many make, who would like to be humble, but are afraid to be too humble.
- The Lamb of God means two things – meekness and death. Let us seek to receive Him in both forms.

How would you concisely describe the central idea for this chapter?

What were the highlights for you?



Observation

What does this verse(s) and these statements say about:

Dying to self?

Perfect nothingness before God?

Meekness?



Interpretation

How can I die to self?

How can we reconcile that we are to die to self and yet live the abundant life in Christ?



Personal Application

What is preventing you from "dying to self" in order to achieve perfect humility?

Notes:

Chapter 11 – Humility and Happiness



Prayer

Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance as you begin reading and completing this. Ask for clarity and insight as you engage in God's Word and the author's writings.

Read the chapter completely before continuing with this study guide.



Scripture Reading

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong. (2 Corinthians 12:9-10)

Central Idea

The highest holiness is the deepest humility. It does not come by itself, but only as it is made a matter of special dealing on the part of our faithful Lord and His faithful servant.

Highlights

- Paul was sent a thorn in the flesh to keep him humble.
- Paul had learned that the place of humiliation is the place of power and of joy.
- He (the Christian) is not yet so in love with humility as the beauty of the Lamb of God, and the joy of heaven, that he would sell all to procure it.
- Paul was given a clearer insight into the deep truth that the presence of Jesus will banish every desire to seek anything in ourselves and will make us delight in every humiliation that prepares us for His fuller manifestations.

- The highest lesson a believer has to learn is humility.
- We will find that the deepest humility is the secret of the truest happiness, of a joy that nothing can destroy.

How would you concisely describe the central idea for this chapter?

What were the highlights for you?



Observation

What does this verse(s) and these statements say about:

A thorn in the flesh?

Humiliation's role?

Learning humility?



Interpretation

What does the phrase "The danger of pride is greater and nearer than we think" mean to you?

What was Paul's reaction to the "thorn in his flesh"?



Personal Application

If you have dealt with your own "thorn in the flesh", what did that look like? If you have not experienced such a challenge, what do you think your reaction would be if you did?

Notes:

Chapter 12 – Humility and Exaltation



Prayer

Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance as you begin reading and completing this. Ask for clarity and insight as you engage in God's Word and the author's writings.

Read the chapter completely before continuing with this study guide.



Scripture Reading

For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted. (Luke 14:11)

I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted. (Luke 18:14)

Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you. (James 4:10)

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you . . . (1 Peter 5:6)

Special Note

What does "exalt", "exalted", "exaltation" mean?

According to the Merriam-Webster on-line dictionary:
to raise in rank, power, or character; to elevate by praise or in estimation; glorify; to raise high; elevate; to enhance the activity of; intensify

Highlights

- Two things are needed. Do what God says is your work – humble yourself. Trust Him to do what He says is His work; He will exalt you.

- Take every opportunity of humbling yourself before God and man.
- The highest glory of man is in being only a vessel, to receive and enjoy and show forth the glory of God.
- It is only in the possession of God that I lose myself.
- May God teach us to believe that to be humble, to be nothing in His presence, is the highest attainment and the fullest blessing of the Christian life.

How would you concisely describe the central idea for this chapter?

What were the highlights for you?



Observation

What does this verse(s) and these statements say about:

God?

Us?

Exaltation?



Interpretation

What is described as the "highest glory of man"?

How should we implement the encouragement to "take every opportunity of humbling yourself before God and man"?



Personal Application

What is the biggest takeaway you had from reading this book?

Notes:



A Prayer for Humility

From Andrew Murray, Author

I will here give you an infallible touchstone that will try all to the truth. It is this: retire from the world and all conversation, only for one month; neither write, nor read, nor debate anything with yourself; stop all the former workings of your heart and mind: and, with all the strength of your heart, stand all this month, as continually as you can, in the following form of prayer to God. Offer it frequently on your knees; but whether sitting, walking, or standing, be always inwardly longing, and earnestly praying this one prayer to God:

"That of His great goodness He would make known to you, and take from your heart, every kind and form and degree of Pride, whether it be from evil spirits, or your own corrupt nature; and that He would awaken in you the deepest depth and truth of that Humility, which can make you capable of His light and Holy Spirit."

Reject every thought, but that of waiting and praying in this matter from the bottom of your heart, with such truth and earnestness, as people in torment wish to pray and be delivered from it. If you can and will give yourself up in truth and sincerity to this spirit of prayer, I will venture to affirm that, if you had twice as many evil spirits in you as Mary Magdalene had, they will all be cast out of you, and you will be forced with her to weep tears of love at the feet of the holy Jesus.