

Be Humble

Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (Philippians 2:3-8)

From our perspective, salvation is an act of humility. If we believe Christ died for our sins, then we are admitting that we are sinners in need of salvation. We are relying on God that He is faithful to save us from our sins. In other words, we are putting our trust in God and not in ourselves (Ephesians 1:12-13).

Our trust in God that He can save us on the basis of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ is rooted in Christ's humility. Christ humbled Himself by giving up His position with God and becoming a man. He was obedient to God even to the point of dying for us on the cross. What greater example of humility can we have? We should have the same attitude of humility displayed by Christ.

Humility is contrary to human nature—our natural tendency is to concentrate on ourselves and take credit for the things we have done. However, as believers in Christ we are to put on humility (Colossians 3:12; I Peter 5:5) and to walk humbly with God (Micah 6:8).

It is better to be humble in spirit with the lowly than to divide the spoil with the proud. (Proverbs 16:19).

Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you. (I Peter 5:6-7)

The opposite of being humble is being proud, self-centered, arrogant, conceited, or boastful. The Bible has much to say against these natural attributes (e.g., Proverbs 11:2; 16:18; 21:4, 24; 28:25; 29:23; Matthew 23:12; Romans 1:28-30; 11:20-21; Galatians 5:26; II Timothy 3:2). We are exhorted not to think too highly of ourselves (Romans 12:3).

Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind [*proud*], but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation [*conceited*]. (Romans 12:16)

We are in no position to be proud of our salvation because it is an undeserved gift of God based on what He did for us through Christ (Ephesians 2:8-9). Nor should believers be proud of the measure of their understanding of the gospel of the grace of God, for that, too, is a gift of God (Ephesians 1:15-18; Romans 12:3). Let us not test God by being prideful, because pride will lead to trouble (Proverbs 16:18; Galatians 6:7). Instead, we should be humble and thankful for what God has done, and is doing, for us and through us.