

## He Teaches The Humble His Way

by Hendrik Joubert

Suggesting that one knows what humility is seems a violation of the gracious quality. Engaging in, and expressing the qualities associated with this attribute does not *prove* humility as one may do so for ulterior motives – such as the friendliness of many salespeople. Through the apostle Paul the Lord warns that some engage in ***matters***, in the context more specifically related to the Law, ***which have, to be sure, the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and self-abasement and severe treatment of the body, but are of no value against fleshly indulgence.*** (Colossians 2:23)

Humility is not something one engage in for gain, it is an awareness of one's own inferior abilities as one considers the purpose for which God created us. Pride causes one not want to dwell on this, and the world we live in passionately objects to such a *depressing* view of self. Such an attitude keeps one from experiencing the true *greatness* which comes from God.

Consider how self-esteem is depended upon the view others have of us. Herein lays the power of peer pressure. Our peers are here and now, and God is gracious...*I will try next time...* And so we procrastinate as a result of our submission to our peers. We most certainly do not want to know that we ***were not confessing Jesus*** by the way we live because we ***loved the approval of men rather than the approval of God.*** (John 12:42-43) *The Lord knows that we do believe in Him, and that is all that matters...right?*

This desire for the approval of our peers will not only influence what we tell them, but also whom we choose to listen to. ***For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires...*** (2Timothy 4:3)

The word for humility in New Testament Greek is always used in a positive sense, though in the classical form of the language it is rather negative. Here the root word is associated with *trash*, and the stuff found on a *rubbish dump*. The sense of lowliness is immediately obvious. Suggesting that we have become *rubbish* drew the objection that *God does not make rubbish*. Amen! It is not a question of what the Lord made us, ***in His own image, in the image of God He created*** man (Genesis 1:27), but rather what we have become: ***"ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS; THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE."*** (Romans 3:12)

Accepting this guilt and responsibility is difficult for those who are not poor in spirit, and failing to do so prevents one from submitting to God in order to be properly *lifted up*. Humility has a direct bearing on how we allow God to communicate with us: ***He leads the humble in justice, And He teaches the humble His way.*** (Psalm 25:9)

The humble will not tell God what they are doing to honor Him; they will allow Him to teach them ***His way*** so they may be ***lead in justice***. Through ***Zephaniah (2:3)*** we are exhorted to ***seek humility***, that evasive quality which keeps us from submitting to God because we are too busy submitting to our peers and more importantly, *our* views of whom and what we are.

Go back to **Colossians 2** where we read about these practices we impress ourselves with; however it amounts to nothing more than **self-made religion** because we determine what is acceptable and what is not. (**Matthew 15:9**) We will not do it with humility, but *scholarly*, supposedly finding the *true* meaning of what God says, making it easier to run it by the majority. We seem to forget that ***For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; <sup>27</sup> but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong,.. (1Corinthians 1:26-27)***

Consider the way we exalt some of the men and their views of the Scriptures rather than the Scriptures per se. No man is *large* enough to teach impure doctrine without harming souls, and therefore cause some to stumble. ***"Woe to the world because of its stumbling blocks! For it is inevitable that stumbling blocks come; but woe to that man through whom the stumbling block comes!" (Matthew 18:7)*** Peter stood condemned because of hypocrisy. (**Galatians 2:11**)

Humility is measured by the Lord, and ***He teaches the humble His way. (Psalm 25:9)*** Let us establish what we believe and practice comes from Jehovah...