

REBUKED INTO HUMILITY

Romans 3:23 “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”

One of the defining traits that God calls His people to is humility; unfortunately most people do not live humble lives. We tend to be more focused and concerned about what we want and our own safety, than truly being humble.

The word “Humility” and the related verb *humble* translate several Old Testament Hebrew words though they are all, in a sense, part of the same family. The New Testament Greek words for humility also stem from a common root (*tapeinoo*) as well.

The central thought of humility is freedom from pride; lowliness, meekness, modesty, mildness. In scripture you see this portrayed in various ways:

- There is a “false humility” (Col 2:18, 23) .
- God humbles people to bring them to obedience (Deut 8:2).
- To humble ourselves is a condition of God’s favor (2 Chron 7:14) and His supreme requirement (Mic 6:8).
- God dwells with the humble (Isa 57:15).
- Humility is encouraged (Prov 15:33; 18:12; 22:4).
- To the Greeks, humility was weak and despicable, but Jesus made it the cornerstone of character (Matt 5:3, 5; 18:4; 23:12; Luke 14:11; 18:14).
- Jesus, by His humility, drew people to Himself (Matt 11:28-30; John 13:1-20; Rev 3:20).
- Paul emphasized the humility of Jesus (2 Cor 8:9; Phil 2:1-11) and commanded us to be humble toward one another (Rom 12:10; 1 Cor 13:4-6; Phil 2:3-4).
- Peter exhorted humility before the brethren and before God (1 Peter 5:5-6).

Humility is an effect of the action of God, circumstances, other people, ourselves, or any or all of these on our lives.

In Genesis 20 Abraham loses any moral high ground because his actions prove that he too is just as depraved as every other character in the scriptures. The only difference was Abraham believed God, even though his faith was imperfect.

We are much like Abraham in that many times we too have lost the moral high ground. We cannot stand in front of people and tell them there is a better way if we do not truly live the life God calls us to. Jesus said it is this kind of witness that

kills us. We don’t need to defend the actions of all Christians, but we do need to defend the honor of God.

You and I will fall down in our faith our entire lives, but we must be willing to listen to rebuke when spoken in truth and realize we are no better than anyone else. We should be humble because our great God deemed to save us just like He deemed to save the crazy old man Abraham.

We must learn from Abraham and Sarah that there are many things in our lives that we are rightly embarrassed by and we wish it would go away...but then we remember that it is God that saves us from ourselves.

Abraham and Sarah are not victims, but fools who were destroying their lives, and God intervened to save them.

In the end, Abraham realizes his sin. He then transforms because of his repentance and becomes more of who he probably really wanted to be all along. Rather than judging Abimelech and his country, he starts to pray for them. This is called interceding, and Abraham does it just as God did it for him.

The complete picture of an intercessor is found and fulfilled in Jesus. He was God and Man, yet died in our place and rose three days later and now lives as an intercessor between us and God forever.

- *Rom 8:34 Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.*
- *Heb 7:25 Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.*

When we are lost, alone, needing a touch of humility and grace from God, Jesus will hear our prayers and take them before the Father.

eMoms Day Off

Sunday, September 23 12-3pm

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