

# The Glory of Humble Submission

1 Peter 5:5-6

## PART ONE

### Introduction

*“you who are younger, be subject to the elders”*

**The church is God’s house. To despise this ordinance is to oppose Him.**

“We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves” (1 Thessalonians 5:12-14).

“Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people” (Titus 3:1-2).

“Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you” (Hebrews 13:17).

**If a shepherd has lost the love and respect of a member, he has become ineffective as their spiritual leader.**

“for God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble” (v5).

“Surely He scorns the scornful, But gives grace to the humble” (Proverbs 3:34; NKJV).

**God’s grace is the only thing that keeps us from being overcome by the power of sin and temptation.**

“But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, ‘God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble’” (James 4:6).

Knowing that, Peter does not want his readers to forfeit the *grace* that only comes by humble submission.

With the exhortation to humble submission, the apostle also includes the hope of glory:

“Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you” (v6).

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

“Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted” (Matthew 23:12).

*Mary’s Magnificat*: “He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate” (Luke 1:51-52).

**Humble submission is a long-standing, foundational quality of Christian maturity. And the only way to receive the grace that keeps you from sinning.**

"You shall stand up before the gray head and honor the face of an old man, and you shall fear your God: I am the Lord" (Leviticus 19:32).

"Gray hair is a crown of glory; it is gained in a righteous life" (Proverbs 16:31).

"Wisdom is with the aged, and understanding in length of days" (Job 12:12).

"And the king answered the people harshly, and forsaking the counsel that the old men had given him, he spoke to them according to the counsel of the young men, saying, 'My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add to your yoke. My father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions'" (1 Kings 12:13-14).

"The glory of young men is their strength, but the splendor of old men is their gray hair" (Proverbs 20:29).

**Two striking characteristics of our Lord Jesus: His *humble submissiveness*.**

"Put on Christ and make no provision for the flesh" (Romans 13:14).

## The Origin and Nature of Pride

**Pride was the original sin discovered *within*. First in Satan, then in Adam and Eve.**

"You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created, till unrighteousness was found in you" (Ezekiel 28:15).

"Your heart was proud because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor. I cast you to the ground" (Ezekiel 28:17).

"How you are fallen from heaven, O Day Star, son of Dawn! How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low! You said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far reaches of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High'" (Isaiah 14:12-14).

**Pride is an internal disease of the heart that all sin-fallen humans share in common.**

**Pride is a *hydra* that lurks in the murky depths of the human heart.**

"It is the heart of all [sin], the first living, the last dying" (qtd. in Meyer).

"That which first overcame man is the last thing he overcomes" (Augustine).

"*God opposes the proud*" literally, God sets himself in battle array against them.

"Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall" (Proverbs 16:18).

"One's pride will bring him low, but he who is lowly in spirit will obtain honor" (Proverbs 29:23).

**Only the heart that has been emptied of *self* becomes a vessel fit to receive treasure from the Lord.**

**The prideful man greedily clutches his abilities and accomplishments as though they belonged to him.**

“What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?” (1 Corinthians 4:7).

**Pride even finds its way into the temple.**

“God, I thank Thee, I am not as the rest of men, or even as this publican” (Lk. 18:11).

“Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind” (Colossians 2:18; NKJ).

“These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body, but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh” (Colossians 2:23; NKJ).

“Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others” (Philippians 2:3-4).

**Don't go too far and act like you have no gifts or virtues at all. That's wrong too.**

Romans 12:3-6

**Just remember from Whom you received those gifts and virtues:**

“For who sees anything different in you? What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?” (1 Corinthians 4:7).

**...and remember for whose benefit they have been given:**

“So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church” (1 Corinthians 14:12).

“Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up” (Romans 15:2).

“Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing” (1 Thessalonians 5:11).

“Let all things be done for building up” (1 Corinthians 14:26).

**Pride and selfishness are all that lie between us and the riches God has for us to use for His glory.**

“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 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 11:28-29).