

James 4:10

Humility

Friendship with God ...

I. Let this Mind be In You

- A. Son of God
- B. Savior
- C. Servant

II. Humble Yourselves

- A. The Lower Place
 - 1. Intentional
 - 2. Unconventional
 - 3. In Attitude and Action
- B. Before God and Man

III. He Will Lift You Up

- A. After the Manner of Christ
- B. In this Life
- C. And the Next

... begins and ends with humility.

Children, Listen ...

1. Jesus was the Son of God, the King of Heaven, but He humbled Himself by coming to earth as a man.

- A. How was he humble at birth?
- B. What did he do to show the disciples He was their servant?
- C. How was Jesus humbled in death?
- D. Jesus died, rose from the grave and left the earth.

Where is He now?

Is He in humility now or is He in exaltation (glorified and worshipped in heaven)?

2. Jesus came to save us. He also came to be an example to us – to show us how to be. How did he show us how to be humble?

Say What?

James' directive is so contrary to our nature and the mindset of the world that it almost seems absurd! Who would intentionally humble themselves? We may unintentionally humiliate ourselves with our foolish behavior at times, but that is not what he is writing about here. James is telling us to put ourselves in a lowly position on purpose. He is actually reiterating not only what Jesus had said all along, but what Jesus did during His time on earth. First we must humble ourselves before the Lord. When we bring to mind Who He is - that part of it should kick in right away. Because we are prone to forget the disparity between who He is as Almighty God and who we are as miniscule, sinful creatures we can easily slip back into pride. Constant meditation on His person and steady devotional practices are the best remedy to keep us in a healthy humble walk with Him. It may be a little harder for us to humble ourselves before each other - we tend at best to want to claim equality at worst claim superiority. But that is not the way of Christ: let this little phrase resonate in your mind and sink into your heart "He humbled Himself." He humbled Himself to save us – something we could never do ourselves. He humbled Himself to set for us an example of what we are supposed to be like – something we are told in our text to pursue with intention. Our thoughts are not to be on the end results but on the imitation of Christ – not His exaltation but His exemplary humiliation. Let us humble ourselves before the Lord and each other and leave the exalting part up to God.