

1Pet 5.6-7—Living With Humility Before God

The charge: humble yourselves before God

- I. The call to humility before God begins with the word *therefore*. This directs our attention back to v.5 in which we learned that *God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble*.
 - A. Pride amongst ourselves is not simply a despising of our fellow creatures; it's rebellion against God, cf. 1Cor 4.7. If the Lord took away all His gifts, we'd all be seen to be exactly the same: wretched, undeserving sinners, Rom 7.18.
 - B. Humility is the only right disposition before God, Ps 8.4. So Peter calls us to a humility that knows ourselves to be creatures and sinners, living upon the bounty of God's abundant mercy.
 - C. Humility before God is the key to humbling ourselves before one another, v.5.

The manner: casting all your cares on Him

- I. If there's one thing that trials, afflictions, and suffering produce in us all, it's the anxieties and worries associated with our cares.
 - A. When pride sneaks in, it tempts us to think we're responsible for where we are and what we have, that we're holding everything together, and that we're in control. Pride causes us to forget our utter and entire dependency on God and our utter and entire sinfulness before God.
 - B. But humility knows that everything we have is God's and He can take it all back at any time, Job 1.21; 1Sam 3.18; 2Sam 15.25-26.
 - C. Humility doesn't ignore life's troubles or harden its heart against suffering or give up in despair in the face of them. Instead, it casts all its cares on God. That's how humility wins the day; it submits to God and trusts in His care, Mt 6.25-34.
- II. The Christian life is a life full of distressing cares.
 - A. Pride clings to these cares as though worrying will bring about a better resolution than the Lord could.
 - B. But humility sees the proper course is to let God shoulder them all because these are *His* cares. There's nothing we can do about them. All our worry only makes matters worse, Mt 6.27.
 - C. So we need to cast all our cares on Him, Ps 142.1-5; 62.5-9.

Reason 1: because He has a mighty hand

- I. This reminds us that whenever we're under affliction, we're under the Lord's hand. Whoever or whatever the second causes were, it's the Lord who's ordained it, designed it, and governs it, Job 12.9-10.
 - A. There's no such thing as blind chance in God's world, Eph 1.11; Ezra 8.22; Amos 3.6. God's hand is in all. And it's this truth that teaches us to humble ourselves under His hand and not resist.
- II. This also convinces us of the utter futility of resisting God because He will have His way with us, Isa 46.10. Let us therefore drink the cup He places in our hand, Jn 18.11.

Reason 2: because He cares for you

- I. God cares for you in a peculiar way as His peculiar people, 1Pet 2.9-10.
 - A. He's loved you from all eternity, Eph 1.4-5; gave His Son for you, Rom 3.24-25; and gave you His Spirit, Eph 2.22.
 - B. His eye is ever upon you and His ears are open to your prayers, 1Pet 3.12. Why would you not cast all your cares on Him?
- II. The key to all your anxiety is to cast everything on God, Phil 4.5-7.

Reason 3: because He will exalt you at the proper time

- I. The thing we seek to secure by all our anxiety is relief or lifting up. But here Peter tells us that if we'd just humble ourselves under God's hand, He'll do the lifting up for us.
- II. Because we're God's peculiar people, none is more ready to lift us up at the proper time than He is, Mal 3.3-4. He only afflicts out of necessity and He snatches us from the furnace when the work is done. Our anxiety is as needless as it is useless, Ps 27.14.

Applications

- I. If the Lord's hand is mighty, then see that you submit to it, Js 4.7.
 - A. The might of God's hand means He can't be resisted; but because that hand is the hand of your God, there's no reason to, Mt 26.39.
- II. If the Lord cares for you, then see that you trust in His care, Phil 4.5-7; Ps 121.
 - A. Your worry is needless, because He's already taken it upon Himself to care for you. So trust Him to do it, Heb 13.5.
- III. If the Lord's committed to exalting you at the proper time, then be patient and learn to wait on Him, Ps 27.14. In the meantime, remember that His grace is sufficient for you, 2Cor 12.9-10.