

## FULLY CLOTHED 3 – Clothed with Humility

### TAPEINOPHROSUNE (Col 3:12, Phil 2:3-4,8, 1 Pet 5:5)

DEF<sup>N</sup>: Looking deep into your heart & judging yourself to be HUMBLE, LOWLY IN SPIRIT, MODEST, WILLING TO STOOP.

→ *What does it mean to be 'lowly in spirit'? What about 'modest' or 'willing to stoop'?*

→ *Who do you know that you perceive to be especially humble? What is it that stands out, in your view?*

### The NATURE of True Humility

- Humility is the voluntary laying down of personal ENTITLEMENT, STATUS & RIGHTS & instead surrendering them to the Lord.
  - Humility is a heart posture that seeks to SERVE, even in lowly tasks, without seeking recognition or reward.
  - Humility is the willingness to SURRENDER your own desires & plans to ALIGN with the heart of God.
  - Humility is rejecting the pursuit of WORLDLY power, fame or influence in favour of God's kingdom PURPOSES.
  - Humility is a life lived in complete RELIANCE on God, acknowledging all strength, wisdom & provision come FROM Him.
  - Humility is total OBEDIENCE to God, trusting Him even when the path involves suffering or sacrifice.
  - A humble heart is THANKFUL, doesn't measure or compare, recognising all you have comes from the goodness of God.
- *How did Jesus model each of those characteristics?*  
→ *Which do you find the easiest or hardest?*  
→ *Are there any other characteristics you'd want to be added to the list?*

### 3 Qualifications / Explanations

- In your PRIDE, do not SIN & do not give the devil a foothold.
  - \* There are things you REALLY SHOULD feel angry about.
  - \* The problem comes when that anger gets ATTACHED to something SINFUL.→ *When does anger become sinful? How do you tell the difference between righteous & unrighteous anger? Give examples of things you really should be angry about?*
  - \* It's natural & good to be PROUD of your CHILDREN'S hard work & godly character, your FRIENDS' successes & triumphs, even your OWN accomplishments.

- \* The problem comes when that pride gets ATTACHED to something SINFUL: Ego, desire for self-praise or personal glory, selfish ambition, superiority, defensiveness, unteachability, jealousy, envy or comparison, self-sufficiency, ingratitude.

→ *When is pride okay? Can you give examples?*

→ *When does pride become sinful? How do you tell the difference between righteous & unrighteous pride? What are the giveaways?*

→ *If you were brutally honest, what are the roots in your heart, the unrenewed parts that still, from time to time, manifest themselves as pride?*

- \* Post a VIGILANT GUARD on your heart (Prov 4:23).
- \* If it looks, sounds or smells like EGO or ENVY, if it's SELF-SEEKING or trying to STEAL God's glory, then RUN!

→ *How do you place that guard? What could potentially happen if you don't? What should be the difference if you do?*

### 2. Practise the HABITS of humility

- Regular PRAISE (Psalm 34:1)
- Cultivate GRATITUDE (1 Thess 5:18)
- WORSHIP the One who is truly worthy (Psalm 99:5)
- Divine DEFERENCE (Prov 3:5-6, Matt 6:33)
- Prayers of CONSECRATION (Psalm 139:23-24)
- SERVE sacrificially (Matt 23:11-12)

→ *Work through each of these, looking up the verses, & explain why they're important & how you develop them into habits?*

→ *Are there any on that list you feel you particularly need to work on? Why? And what do you intend to do to stimulate the habit?*

→ *"These habits will be the fruit of humility, the actions that in themselves produce humility & the exemplifiers that model true humility to others. Discuss!"*

### 3. Humility is the TRIGGER (2 Chron 7:14)

- \* IF / THEN & it all hinges on 'HUMBLE THEMSELVES.'
- \* WITHOUT humility, we won't a) PRAY, b) SEEK HIS FACE or c) TURN & REPENT.
- \* Not a FALSE 'woe-is-me' humility, but something far DEEPER & much STRONGER: A GENUINE, POWERFUL, DEEPLY-CONVICTED, AWE-STRICKEN, REVERENT humility.
- \* Pride will KILL the move of God; humility will TRIGGER it.

→ *Why is humility the trigger in 2 Chron 7:14? Why does pride stop us praying, seeking & turning?*

→ *How do the praying, seeking & turning sometimes produce pride? What might that pride look like in our expressions of worship?*

→ *"Pride will kill the move of God; humility will trigger it." Discuss!*