

Humility: Loves Truest Expression

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“Christianity is the religion of Love.” We, as Christians, are to love God and love others, but how is love to be shown? How does love express itself? To explain loves expression let us first look at the origin of love, to God Himself. “God is Love.” 1 John 4:8. He is the truest and purest form of love that there is, because He is Love. Everything He says and does is from Love, because He is Love. Therefore, love, the love in which we are to display, has many facets and expressions. Yet, I believe that there is one expression of love which is the foundation of them all; humility. There are many schools of thought which teach humility as debasing oneself through shame and embarrassment, but I would like to propose a different view of what humility is.

The start of this view starts with two joining truths:

1. We, who are in Christ, are called to be like Christ. We are called to represent Him to this world. We partake of His life and because of this we are transformed into His image. (2 Cor 3:18)
2. Christ Jesus, who perfectly displayed the Father God, came displaying Love with the face of true humility. (Phil 2:5-11, Col 2:9)

We see from this truth that humility is part of the nature and character of God Himself, and this is why we must be humble. True humility, therefore, is **not** admitting and confessing how sinful and weak we are, **because** God is neither sinful nor weak. The humility in us comes not from sin, sickness, weakness, or anything else like that, because humility is from God, as shown in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Then how do we become humble? Or what is humility? The word for humility in the Greek means to depress or bring low. To what do we become low towards? And how is this lowness achieved? I think the answer and to these questions comes from the Hebrew word used in the Bible for Humble. It means to bend the knee, as in subjection. It is likened to a servant bending the knee to a master. It means to be in subjection. Humility then is not a debasing of oneself, but a glorifying of another. It is not that the servant is lesser than the master, but the servants will is to do the will of the master. Humility is to lay down your own will to do another’s will. You prefer them to yourself. You seek there good first.

Jesus spoke of His humility in these words, “I do not seek my own will but the will of My Father who sent Me,” and, “The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve.” This is the very heart of Jesus displayed throughout the Gospels. This humility is part of the eternal nature of God.

I would like to go two directions from this point:

1. The Humility of God
2. The Humility of man

1. The nature of Love: God

1 Cor 13:5 “Love does not insist of its own rights or its own way, for it is not self-seeking.” Amp

Do we know and understand that God, the God who created everything, is not self-seeking. He has never, not once, sought His own way. Again, “Love does not seek His own.”

- a. God to God:

Between the Trinity; Father, Son and Spirit, there is and always has been a divine communion of perfect love. In reference to the scripture above we see that each part of the trinity; Father, Son and Spirit, does not seek their own will or insist on their own way and rights, BUT they humble themselves and serve each other’s will in perfect love. The Father seeks the Son’s will, the Son seeks the Father’s will, the Spirit seeks the Son’s will so on and so forth. It is the pleasure and manifestation of their nature not to seek there own but to seek the glory of the other. Each have there own will, but they do not seek it. Each seeks after the Other’s will and in doing so all of their wills are done. They are not divided at all, there wills are exactly the same but the do not seek the others will to fulfill their own. It is a perfect display of divine love working through humility.

- b. God to man:

Mankind, who was created in the image of God, is invited into this divine love, to share and to experience it to its fullness, but sin separated us from this love. We, who have accepted Christ, are redeemed back to mans original state; that is: right standing with God.

We are therefore the recipients of this divine love that serves each other. God loves to serve us. It is His nature. We often see God as the kingly dictator who seeks only His will, as if He were saying, “My will be done, My kingdom come,” yet, love cannot say that, for “love does not seek its own.” God desires

more than anything to see our wills and desires fulfilled. This is the nature of the God who loves us and serves us in humility. This is displayed in the life of Jesus Christ. **Important:** He seeks to fulfill those desires in us which are conformed into His image and likeness. His nature violently opposes everything else which is not in His likeness. It is called sin and He does not fulfill our rebellion.

Jesus said seven different times that what ever we ask for we will have, John 14:13, 14:14, 15:7, 15:16, 16:23, 16:24, and 16:26. God desires to give you the desires of your heart. He humbles Himself to serve us and to fulfill our (purified) wills.

2. The nature of Love: Man

a. Man to God:

A born-again believer has the nature of God in him 1 Jn 3:9, and thus is called to the same level of Love that God has. This love is to be manifested in humility before God. We are called to not seek our own, but to “seek the will of our Father who sent us.” As a servant to a master, we empty ourselves of self-seeking and fill ourselves with the will of God.

The apostolic title of a “bondservant of Jesus Christ” shows us just how much the apostles love Jesus. They were bound, because love called them to serve.

We tend to think of a servant to be lower than the master, yet in God’s economy and kingdom the servant is the greatest, Mark 9:35. Our love for God is expressed through our humility as a bondservant of Jesus Christ.

Our position as a lover of God is to be void of self-seeking and to be filled with the will of God.

b. Man to Man:

Since, God’s heart and love is for people, the more in His likeness you become the more your heart comes to love people. This love for people is shown in us by us laying aside our comfort, wills, and schedules and serving one another in love. Eph 5:1-2 says, “Therefore be imitators of God as dear children, and walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us.” In John 15:13 “Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.”

Our faith is expressed through love and love is expressed by our works of serving one another. We know we belong to God by our love for our brothers, 1 John 4:20-21. Our outward humility to others is a display of our inward love of God.

As we serve man, God's will is done through us because His will is to serve man.

God's kingdom runs on the power of love which is shown through a servant heart of humility. As kings and priests in His kingdom, let us re-present Christ to this world through our serving love. Whether it is offering a glass of water to someone who is thirsty or offering someone the salvation of Christ Jesus, we are called to be like Jesus, our God, the Servant of All.