

Work Hard Stay Humble II

HVFC

August, 2025

Jesus is Better Series

Hebrews 5:5-7

Well, isn't God good?

Last week was a rough one for our family, Creed was very sick on his birthday last Monday and close to being hospitalized with a middle ear infection, coupled with swimmers' ear that was complicated by pond water bacteria, on its way to becoming a staph infection. Needless to say, after several doctor visits, one trip to the ER, multiple sleepless nights for Autumn and Creed, several different types of antibiotics and pain medicines he is back to being Creed.

But Sunday has come, Jesus is alive, we have his healing power and truly felt your prayers. Thank you.

I thought I would highlight a part of our weekly church email, which is available if you want to sign up. It contains a summary of the previous week's sermon, with reflection questions.

Here is what this weeks email said.

On Sunday, Pastor Will dove into 1 Peter 5. He mentioned that all believers are sheep in God's flock with Jesus as the Good Shepherd. We are called to leadership as a believer whether that is in your home with your family, in your church leading a ministry, in your job as a manager, or out in the community as a believer who can share God's Word. We emphasized that true spiritual leadership is characterized by humility, willingness, and a genuine love for God's people. Have you been able to reflect this week on who you have influence over? In your situation of influence, are you leading with love and willingness? Or are you leading with compulsion and selfish gain? Sit with God and ask for Him to purify your

motivations and to show you how to influence those around you by example and with love.

Along with the emails we will be starting our FCC small groups next month, where we meet weekly, discuss and apply the sermon from Sunday.

This week I am going to continue in 1 Peter 5, and I will also be here next week as well.

Last week we looked at how leaders are to lead and oversee the flock of God, this week we are going to look at how the flock of God should handle other members of the flock of God. And to be honest it is hard work to stay humble.

Turn with me to 1 Peter 5. Starting in verse 5.

1 Peter 5:5-7

5 Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,

7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

NKJV

Let's pray.

Do you want to know something about me, that few people know outside of my family? I love to watch animated movies. The Croods, Big Hero 6, Lion King, and Makiah's favorite of all time Tangled.

Most days I would rather sit and watch one of these movies with my kids than any other kind.

And one of my favorites is Emperor's New Groove. Kozmo as the lama and Gronk.

Gronk is one of the best side kick characters ever created because of his frequent interactions with his conscience. He will often stop and talk to the angel version of himself on the right shoulder, and the devil version of himself on the left shoulder. The Angel pushing him to do the right thing, the devil version pushing him to the selfish wrong thing.

And as a side note, Billy has an excellent Gronk voice. Funniest thing ever.

In our passage this morning, we have sitting on our right shoulder the angel of humility, which is in direct opposition to the devil of pride on our left shoulder.

As humans we really struggle with pride, as it comes naturally.

We also struggle with humility, because it does not come naturally.

And in scripture when we see pride, it is usually contrasted with humility.

5 times in Proverbs pride is countered by humility.

Pride goes before a fall, but before honor is humility. Pro. 18:12

Isaiah mentions it, Micah, Matthew, Luke, Romans, Philippians, James, and here in 1 Peter.

The command is to be humble, to stay, or remain humble.

As we look at our passage, let's clear up one thing real quick.

Peter starts chapter 5 saying elders, and then in verse 5 says "you younger" people.

By a quick show of hands how many of you are OLD?

How many of you are young or feel young?

Nobody wants to be old, but Peter isn't talking about age in this passage.

He is speaking more to spiritual maturity than age. The spiritually mature are to be the elders and overseers. That means that even though some of you are older than me, I could be a spiritual elder to you, however I am an overseer of the church and this flock and an Elder.

That is why Peter says, no matter what ages are present, submit to your elders. And last week we talked about the attitude and way a leader should lead. Go back and read the first 4 verses.

So what that means is that the rest of you belong to the younger crowd, see you can claim that scripture says you are young.

And Peter, making sure that we all understand we are co-followers of Jesus gives this most important command.

1 Peter 5:5

Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility...

NKJV

I want to draw out a couple things here.

We are to be submissive to one another, be clothed, with humility.

The goal is to be submissive to one another, to do that we must be clothed properly, and the proper clothes are humility.

It starts with humility.

What does it mean to be humble then? It is a term that is hard to define, meaning we all have our opinions on what it means to be humble.

One of the best definitions I have read was given by MacLaren, in his commentary.

He defined humility this way.

Humility does not consist in being, or pretending to be, blind to one's strong points. There is no humility in a man denying that he can do certain things if he can do them or even refusing to believe he can do them well, if God has given him special faculties in any given direction. That is not humility at all.

But to know where all my strength comes from, and to know what a little thing it is; not to estimate myself highly, and, not to be always insisting upon other people estimating me highly, and demanding the honor I think I am owed, but rather be focused on other people.

Humility at it's core is how we view other people.

We naturally have a tendency to seek out what defines us and compare it to those around us to see where we fall on the importance meter. And we want to be seen as the top dog, with great importance wherever we are.

Philippians 2 speaks to this.

Philippians 2:3-4

3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.

4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

NKJV

Humility isn't thinking less of you, it is raising how you view others, it is putting our neighbors interest and treatment on the level of our interest and how we want to be treated.

I wanted an example, but didn't want to pull it from our church, but think back a couple of years ago to masks and vaccines. If you wore a mask and took the vaccine you "esteemed" those who didn't with contempt. If you refused to wear a mask and get the vaccine you "esteemed" those who did with disdain. Without ever considering the other person's reasons or opinions, we immediately deemed the opposing crowd as less than. You elevated your own status, and lowered everyone else's status. That is how pride works, me before all else. Me at the expense of everyone else.

Humility was an extremely scarce commodity in those days.

Yet humility is the goal set before us by Peter.

Peter uses an interesting way to demonstrate how we are to be humble. We are to be dressed for the occasion, clothed in humility.

The Greek word for clothed here is the only place it is found in the Bible and is a unique and rare word according to several commentators.

1 Peter 5:5

Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

NKJV

Remember Peter is writing this, and two of Peter's most prideful moments happened on the night where Jesus humbled himself.

Jesus came to the Disciples on the night he was betrayed, laid aside his garment and girded or clothed himself with a towel.

Every disciple understood what that towel meant, what it represented.

The word Peter uses for clothed is a word that is represented by a slave girding or tying a piece of cloth in a way upon himself for his work of service.

It is what identified a person as a slave, a servant. And when that towel was on, they were fulfilling their duty as a servant.

Jesus clothed himself with humility and began to wash the disciples' feet.

Peter, presuming to understand Jesus as the Son of God, says no way will my master wash my feet. It was pride. Later that night Peter would deny Jesus three times after Jesus had humbly washed his feet.

Peter saw the humility being worn in the form of the towel and experienced the service that was done with humility.

Humility and service go together like peanut butter and Jelly.

We all know examples of people, and they are many in the church, who say they are humble. They proclaim what they have done in the past, how they served here and there, but whenever there is work to be done, they are mysteriously always absent.

To serve is to get dirty, to go where the work is, to put your hands and your heart into the mess of humanity to pull some from it.

Maclaren said this.

There are some that want to be leaders in the church, but don't want to do the work of the ministry.

Humility is the prep for service; service is the test for humility.

Jesus prepared himself for the service by clothing himself with humility and then carried out the service as test of humility.

How do you and I experience the testing of humility?

The answer is how we submit to one another, not just the leaders, but to each other.

1 Peter 5:5

Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility...

NKJV

We can choose pride, or we can choose humility, the choice is ours, but it comes with consequences.

Verse 5 ends with God resist the proud but gives grace to the humble.

I don't know about you, but I don't want to have God pushing me away, resisting me, and opposing me.

God gives grace to those who serve humbly each other.

Well Pastor Will, I can't do that, how am I supposed to submit to them? Do you know what they have done, they either did or did not wear a mask, they voted for that candidate, they did this, they do that, I couldn't submit to someone one like that.

1 Peter 5:6-7

6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,

7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

NKJV

Peter is saying that we don't humble ourselves to each other based on what the other person has or has not done.

We humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God.

Take Jesus, he clothed himself with a servant's towel and humbly washed both the feet of Peter who would deny him and Judas who would betray him. And all of the disciples who would abandon him that night.

He did this knowing that in the proper time, God would exalt him.

Jesus had to experience the cross before he could receive the crown.

Submission, humility is an act of faith in God. If we obediently follow God's command to submit to one another we may be taken advantage of by those people. God cannot be deceived, we each receive the consequences of our actions. If we humbly submit ourselves under the might hand of God, he will exalt us in due time.

And that is an important phrase.

God always prepares us before he exalts us. Jesus suffering before the glory.

Moses spending 40 years in the wilderness. David leading men in the wilderness.

And in my own life, I spend 15 years under the authority of pastor John Cathcart before God brought my family to this church. They were good years, but not all of them easy, I learned many lessons there in preparation for my calling now.

If you remember Bro Ghiorgi from Romania. He shared some insight with me one time. He said William Parsons, you are a wild young bull with no experience, no consistency, full of vehm and vigor, and no control. And God has you tied to a post until you learn to trust Him. That post was Last Chance Chapel.

I shared a challenging message for us this morning.

We don't like the word submit unless we are standing over someone submitting to us. Yet the one standing over the person submitting is standing in pride.

This morning many of you have been coming to this church for most of your life, there are many old relationships in this building. And with long relationships come hurts, that are often covered up. And they begin to fester with a nasty infection of pride. Much like my son's infection that started inside his ear it eventually manifests outwardly.

When we choose to not be clothed in humility, and submit to one another, God resist us. When God resist us we are left carrying all of our own cares and burdens, anxiety and fears.

But when we humble ourselves, gird our waist with the towel of a servant and submit to each other, God's grace gives us the ability to humbly submit under his mighty hand, and allows us to cast our cares, burdens, anxieties, and fears on Him.

The choice is ours. We can walk in pride, carrying the weight of all our problems, and being resisted by God.

Or we can walk in humility, casting all of our cares on Him, and receive his grace.

Stand with me this morning.

We have hope. Peter once stood in pride twice on the night Jesus was betrayed. But shortly after learned humility. We can learn to be humble, but it takes hard work to stay humble.

Let's pray.