

## Humility Class Q&A Quotes

“At every stage of our Christian development and in every sphere of our Christian discipleship, pride is our greatest enemy and humility our greatest friend.” – John Stott

“I remind myself that pride smolders in me all the time.” – J.I. Packer

“Life’s most basic questions boil down to determining who gets the glory-God or His creatures.” – Bryan Chapell

“It is hard work to keep from glorifying self. If anyone were to say, ‘I have no ambition for self-glory’ he would be lying. For in every man there lurks some love of self-glory.”  
–Charles Spurgeon

“When we have done anything praiseworthy, we must hide ourselves under the veil of humility and transfer the glory for all we have done to God.” –Thomas Watson

“Pride is the hunt for self-glory.”

“Man’s chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever . . . What is it to glorify God? Glorifying God consists of four things: 1. Appreciation, 2. Adoration, 3. Affection, 4. Subjection. We glorify God when we are God-admirers; admire His attributes . . .to glorify God is to have God admiring thoughts, to esteem Him most excellent and search for diamonds in this rock only . . . we aim at God’s glory, when we are content that God’s will should take place, though it may cross ours . . . we aim at God’s glory when we are content to be outshined by others in gifts and esteem, so that His glory may be increased. A man that has God in his heart, and God’s glory in His eye, desires that God be exalted; and if this be effective, let who will be instrument, he rejoices. We glorify God by walking cheerfully . . . your serving him does not glorify Him unless it be with gladness.” – Thomas Watson

“O Lord, I am astonished at the difference between my receivings and my deservings, between the heaven I am bound for and the hell I merit.” – The Valley of Vision

“Pride’s wrecking ball is the gospel.”

“Be content to be nothing because that is what you are.” – Charles Spurgeon

“In my experience, where there’s an absence of edifying words there’s also normally the presence of pride and of self-righteousness, because those who are proud are too preoccupied with themselves and think too highly of themselves to care about building others up or to be sensitive to their true needs. It’s the humble who are perceptive; they’re skilled in discerning the word of God in others because they care about others and want to serve others.”

– C.J. Mahaney

## **C.J. Mahaney – Humility: True Greatness Study Guide**

(Sisters, Oregon: Multnomah Publishers, 2005)

### **Humility: True Greatness, chapters 1-2**

1. Mahaney, Humility, 13–14: Does Mahaney believe he is qualified to write this book? Why or why not?
2. Mahaney, Humility, 17–24:
  - a. Does the contemporary world appreciate humility? What example does Mahaney give to illustrate his answer? What limitations does the contemporary world’s appreciation of humility have?
  - b. Does God love humility? How do we know this according to Mahaney?
  - c. How does 2 Chronicles 16:9 function in Mahaney’s argument regarding God’s delight in humility?
  - d. What promise does God’s Word make regarding humility?

- e. How does the quotation from John Calvin on page 21 help us define the nature of true humility?
  - f. Why is humility so important? What example does Mahaney use to drive home his point? Is it effective?
3. Mahaney, Humility, 25–36:
- A. What point is Mahaney seeking to make with regard to his experiences with cars?
  - B. Would you agree with Mahaney our “common greatest enemy” is pride (page 29)? Why or why not? But what about our enemies “the world” and “the devil”? Are they not as great? Why or why not?
  - C. What biblical evidence does Mahaney use to argue that pride is the worst of our enemies? Has he rightly interpreted the passage from Isaiah 14? Is there other biblical indication that the first sin in the history of sin was pride?
  - D. Why does God hate pride with such vehemence? How does he respond to pride?
  - E. What have some other Christian leaders in the history of the Church said about pride? Why? Why then does Mahaney take a whole chapter to discuss pride in a book on humility?

### **Humility: True Greatness, chapters 3-6**

- 1. Mahaney, Humility, 39–42: What problem continually dogged the disciples during our Lord’s earthly ministry? Why? How did the disciples define greatness?
- 2. Mahaney, Humility, 40–44: How does Jesus redefine greatness? Does Mahaney’s definition of greatness—“Serving others for the glory of God”—capture the essence of Jesus’ thought about true greatness? Why or why not?
- 3. Mahaney, Humility, 47–59:
  - A. What is important about the word “ransom” with regard to Christ and us?
  - B. According to Mahaney, the content of these pages (chapter 4) is “essential to grasping the truth of [the] entire book.” After reading the chapter, do you agree with him? Why or why not?

4. Mahaney, Humility, 63ff.: In what follows, Mahaney will develop practical strategies to fight sin—why is following such strategies not legalism?
5. Mahaney, Humility, 65–68: What is the first practical step that we can take to fight pride and grow in humility? Why is this step vital?
6. Mahaney, Humility, 68–77: What things need to mark the beginning of each day for us? Why?
7. Mahaney, Humility, 80–81: What is cosmic plagiarism? How can it be avoided?
8. Mahaney, Humility, 82–86: How should we view sleep? Do you agree with Mahaney? Why or why not?

### **Humility: True Greatness, chapters 7–12**

1. Chapter 7: What other ways does Mahaney recommend for growth in humility? How does the study of the attributes of God, the doctrines of grace, and the nature of sin facilitate this growth?
2. Chapter 8: Why does identifying God's grace at work in the lives of others help "mortify pride and cultivate humility" (p.109)?
3. Chapter 9: What does Ephesians 4:25–30 say about the impact of our words? What role do words of encouragement play with regard to helping us grow in humility?
4. Chapter 10: "The pursuit of humility cannot be a solitary endeavour" (p.123): how does Mahaney develop this thought in this chapter? Is his thinking biblical? Why or why not?
5. Chapter 11: What specific help does Habakkuk offer in enabling us to grow in humility?
6. Chapter 12: What specific things can we do to ensure that we pass on a legacy of true greatness to our children?

