



1 Peter 5:5-7
A Call To Christian Humility

Summary: *God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble*; therefore, Christians should live in humble submission to God and each other.

I want to jump right into our passage this morning so we can squeeze it for all it's worth – because there's a mixture of warning, instruction and encouragement for us here – this is stuff that can change the trajectory of your life if you really, really, understand it.

We're wrapping up Peter's letter to a group of early churches. He just encouraged the pastors or elders – same thing really - to love and lead the church with humility and sacrifice, to do it for God and others, not for themselves.

And now he turns to everyone else and says:

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."*

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.

Now, that says a lot of things, but I want you to notice the arrangement. What's the big idea? What's the point? It's right there in the middle:

*"God resists the proud,
But gives grace to the humble."*

He starts by saying younger people should be submissive, in fact, we should all be submissive and clothe ourselves with humility – but why? Look at the connection he makes, **for**:

*"God resists the proud,
But gives grace to the humble."*

And then, he picks it up with additional instruction on the other side:

6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God,

But in the middle is this:

*“God resists the proud,
But gives grace to the humble.”*

This is the reason for the all the other instruction.

In the 6th Century Pope Gregory I made a list of what he called the seven deadly sins - “deadly” because they are gateways – sins that lead you into other sins - and the top of the list, the apex predator of sin, was pride.

It’s the sin of putting me first – what I want, what I think, what I’ve done or am doing. And when I am proud, when I think I’m right, I will race right along with whatever I think I should do next.

Some make the case that pride was the original sin – that pride led Eve to take the forbidden fruit. She knew God said there was only one thing she could not do: eat from this one tree – everything else in life was a yes, this one thing was a no, but

Gen 3:6 when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make *one* wise, she took of its fruit and ate.

She knew what God said, but she had her own ideas, she thought she knew best. Pride kicked in and ultimately got her kicked right out of Paradise.

Compare that self-confidence with the instruction we find in:

Prov 8:13 The fear of the LORD *is* to hate evil;
Pride and arrogance and the evil way
And the perverse mouth I hate.

Scripture is full of examples of God abandoning the proud and rescuing or comforting the weak, the humble, and the oppressed – think of Jesus’ concern for various widows and God’s rescue of the nation of Israel from captivity. When the marginalized, the weak, and the oppressed cry out, God hears their prayers. When the strong, the self-centered, and the self-confident step out, God eventually lets them fall.

Later the Apostle John warns us that arrogant pride has no place in the life of a Christian – would you keep your finger here in 1 Peter and turn a page or two over in your Bible and look with me at 1 John 2, I want you to be able to mark this passage in your Bible. John warns us:

1 John 2:15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that *is* in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

This quick survey, from Genesis through Proverbs and into 1 John shows us, from the first pages of Scripture to the last, the principle holds true:

*“God resists the proud,
But gives grace to the humble.”*

So, where do you find pride making itself a nest in your life? Where are you running on your own opinions and ideas? Where are you making all your own decisions about things? What do you think you know best about? This morning might be God’s wake up call to you – a final warning across your bow before you commit to something or go any further with something you’ve been feeling a twinge of conviction about.

Listen, there is a time for pressing ahead in the face of adversity and challenge, there is a time for risking it all, there is a time for going against the flow, or setting out on your own, but are you sure it’s now? And are you sure it’s this? Is there peace in your soul about what you’re doing? Or, are you feeling God’s resistance?

If you think about it, the fact that God resists pride is act of mercy. If pride is leading you away from God, into further sin, then it is an act of mercy for Him to oppose you, to slow you down, to keep you from racing off into the darkness and distance outside of His grace, wisdom, mercy, and love.

We put guard rails up to keep people from plunging into canyons on mountains roads. If you’re feeling resistance in your life right now, you need to consider: where is that coming from, and why?

On the other hand, if you are in Christ, you also need to know this: (vs 5) [God gives grace to the humble.](#)

God does not delight in spending His days resisting you, frustrating you, or disciplining you. He doesn’t sit back at His heavenly monitor all day watching you mess up and sending you more problems to deal with while taking good things out of your life.

[He gives grace to the humble.](#)

And: (vs 6) [He will exalt you in due time.](#)

Because: (vs 7) [He cares for you.](#)

You need to have an accurate picture of yourself - a real, behind the scenes, what you see in the mirror first thing each morning when your mouth smells like death, your hair looks like the fur of a cheap stuffed animal, and there’s something hard and crusty in the corner of your eye – you need to see yourself that way.

And you need to know – that’s who you are – and it’s OK.

*“God resists the proud,
But gives grace to the humble.”*

Before you get yourself all puffed, polished, and presentable for the day, before you become something you can be proud of, you need to know:

*“God resists the proud,
But gives grace to the humble.”*

He cares for you, and He will exalt you in due time.

So, go out and do your best today, work hard, struggle, resist the forces of darkness, improve yourself, your family, your community, the world, and your workplace, but do it in humility, knowing that God has called you to this and He is walking with you through it. You're not on your own, it's not all riding on you.

You see, here's the difference between pride and humility – pride says *I* know what's best, *I* can do this, *I've* got this, and after the fact it says, look what *I* did, look what *I* accomplished, look who *I* am.

Pride almost always relies on relative comparisons. Think about those two words – relative comparisons. Pride lifts you up – but over who? Compared to whom? Pride almost always involves me comparing myself to someone else and feeling good about me because I'm better than you. I did it faster, I made it farther, I did it better, mine are bigger than yours, smaller than yours, brighter than theirs.

Pride is anchored in achievement and attainment – I'm not like them. I'm better.

But what does that do for relationships? How does that make you any easier to get along with?

Which is why Peter tells us

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...

Now, quick side note, but I need to make it. The first word is what? Likewise. Last week he told elders, pastors, leaders, how to fill their position of leadership, to do it with humility and concern for others over concern for self. To be servant leaders, not leaders with servants.

And now, with that said, with that attitude and example creating the culture and the climate of the church, now,

you younger people, submit yourselves to *your* elders. Yes, all of *you* be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility

It's true in the church, in your family, and in any organization – leaders set the tone. If you're proud, demanding, and arrogant, that's going to drive certain people away, and draw certain people in – and the people it draws in may not be the kind of people you want around.

But, if you put God first, in your family, in professional life, at school, on your team, whatever, if He is the one you're looking to for guidance and direction, He's going to form you into someone who is competent, capable, full of character, and that will begin to attract and repel certain types of people as well.

If you are submissive *to God*, if you are clothed with humility before *Him*, then it makes it easier for you to begin interacting with other people that way too, and for them to begin to do the same for you.

So, when things are functioning properly, we find God setting the tone and direction, with servant-leaders following Him, and the tone and climate spread to the entire flock, and we all submit to, are patient with, and love, each other. Knowing

*“God resists the proud,
But gives grace to the humble.”*

Notice that it all begins and ends with God. My relationship *with Him* leads me to interact a particular way *with you*. I am told to submit to certain people, to accept certain roles, to embrace certain organizational structures in the family and the home. My relationship with God is intended to be evident in my relationship with you. My faith is personal, but not private. It is individual, but it is also corporate. My true religion has a real impact on relationships.

Peter uses this metaphor of Christians being *clothed with humility*. Now, that's an interesting way of saying it because, clothing is a tool of communication. It is meant to send signals.

There are things you will wear and things you will not wear. Why? Well, comfort plays a certain role in it, of course, but also because there are things you want to be seen in and things you would not be caught dead wearing. Clothing is often a tool that communicates something about you – it shows off the parts of your body you're proud of, covers the parts you're not, and shows which cultural tribe you belong to – the brands you wear, the stores you shop in, the styles you follow, all say something about you.

God calls you to be *clothed with humility*. To wrap yourself in it. Cover yourself with it, so other people see you, and you see yourself, in a certain way. Put it on each morning when you get out of bed.

Which means, *think about this*, it is an action, it a choice, one that you have to repeat regularly. You are not automatically humble. It doesn't just radiate out of you. It's not your natural state, you must intentionally, volitionally, deliberately choose to **clothe yourself with humility** and **be submissive to one another**.

Christians, humility is not automatic. It's an act of the will. It's a choice - a choice to follow God instead of giving into pride.

Here's another one of those verses you should have highlighted in your Bible, memorized, and framed on your wall:

Micah 6:8 He has shown you, O man, what *is* good;
And what does the LORD require of you
But to do justly,
To love mercy,
And to walk humbly with your God?

Humility facilitates some of the best things in life. It is the anti-dote to pride. It makes you more attractive to more people. Think about it – would you rather spend time with someone who was drop dead gorgeous, heart swooningly handsome, but full of themselves, or someone who was plain as day and yet humble, kind, and thought of others ahead of themselves?

Which kind of person do you think the world needs more of? So, what do you look like today? Which clothes are you wearing? And how do you do this? How do you push away the constant tug of pride and choose to put on humility?

Well, listen to what Peter says, we know:

*“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.

The humility you come out wearing in front others is selected in the fitting room with God.

All throughout 1 Peter we have spoken of a derivative submission fueled by defiant faith – I submit to people on earth, in my home, in my marriage, at work, in my nation, in my church I submit to all these other people *because I first submit to God*. My submission to Him leads me to submit to you. And that's true even when you're hard to follow or submit to, which is why I need defiant faith – I choose to defy my circumstances, defy my own desires, and lean further into God for the grace I need to obey.

If I can **humble myself under the mighty hand of God**, then humbling myself before you won't be as hard because I trust that His hand is higher – no matter what you do, or say, I

know God is there and aware, so **I cast all my care** upon Him, even when it's hard, knowing that **He cares for me**, and trusting that **He will exalt me in due time**.

Which brings me to my next point, the call to Christian submission and humility is a call to faith. A call to trust. A call to **cast all my care upon God**, knowing **He cares for me**.

Eugene Peterson put it this way: "Live carefree before God, because He is most careful with you."

Now, I need you to pay attention because I've got to try and communicate something really, really, important here today. God isn't saying don't have any worries. He isn't saying don't have anxieties. Don't have any concerns. He's saying, when you have them – because, you will – when you have them, **cast them upon God**.

Put yourself under His mighty hand. Trust Him, rely on Him, run to Him, and do all of that because – look at your Bible, see this for yourself – **He cares for you**.

Christian, listen to me – listen to me speak on the authority of God's holy Word – I'm not making this up, I don't just wish this was true, I'm telling you, as an ambassador of Christ: **God cares for you. God cares for you. God cares for you.**

And He is telling you to **cast all your care on Him**.

Pride won't let you do that. Pride says, it's not that big of deal. Pride says, I've got this. Pride says I can handle this. Pride says I'll figure something out. Pride says I've always found a way before. Pride says I can't let other people know what I'm into, or where things are, or how bad it is. Pride says I can't tell them what's really going on, how scared I am, how unsure I feel. Pride cuts you off from God and everyone and everything in His service and says, I'm going to handle this alone. Pride won't let you **cast your care on God**, it insists on doing everything alone.

But imagine this. Imagine you built the world's greatest computer – you wanted to do some high-end video processing or gaming, maybe you wanted to mine for some crypto currency. You get the latest processor and video card, massive amounts of RAM and storage, you get a top of the line monitor that displays colors that make reality look dumb, you get a sweet case for it, trick it out with RGB everything, and you've got so many fans in there to cool things off you could start a small hurricane. You've got all kinds of capacity.

You still need one very important thing: power. Where are you going to get the energy to run that box? It doesn't make it's own – it needs something from the outside, it needs to be plugged in.

Think of your life the same way – no matter what you upgrade, expand, or connect, if you don't have power, it's all just a pretty box you made out of aluminum, silicone and glass.

I'm asking you to unleash God in your life, let Him be the power that flows through you. Let Him be what you're plugged into. Let Him be what your life runs on – the electrons flowing through all the hardware that make the work it does possible.

Church, God [cares for you](#). He knows where you are and what you're going through. I'm asking: will you humble yourself, put yourself in and under, His mighty hand, and cast all the things you're tempted to freak out about on Him? That doesn't mean they're going to go away, but it means you won't face them alone.

And it doesn't mean life is going to be easy – the same word for cast here is used for a fisherman repeatedly casting his heavy nets into the water. It's also the same word for casting out a demon – and that's what it might feel like for you – a demon doesn't want to leave it's host – when you see it happen in Scripture they tend to come out kicking and screaming – the same thing might be true of your cares – they don't want to come out, they're comfy in you, they like it there, they're used to being there. You've become good roommates – but now God is asking you to evict them – to [cast them on Him](#).

All your worries, anxieties, stresses and daily struggles – God is encouraging you to [cast them on Him](#) and let Him be the power in you as you re-engage with the world, your workplace, your relationships, freed from fear, freed from pride, clothed in humility, willing to submit, trusting in God who loves you and cares for you, knowing that He walks with you through all of this, and that He will exalt you in due time.

[Romans 8:31](#) What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *can* be against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

This is the God you're being asked to trust. This is the God you're being asked to submit to. To humble yourself in front of, whose hand you're asked to be under. The God who freely gave His Son for you. The God who knows you need help and offers it to you. The God who knows you have fears and anxieties and cares, and says [cast them on Me](#), and let's face them together. The God who

*["resists the proud,
But gives grace to the humble."](#)*

So, what does that mean for you today?

Is there some pride you need to confess? Are you trying too hard to deal with things your own way instead of saying God I can't do this on my own – I'm a computer without a power cord – I need to plug into You?

Where has pride taken root in your life, puffing you up, or carving you away from God and others because "you've got this" or you don't want to be a burden or a bother. Maybe God is resisting your pride, making your situation harder. And that resistance is a gift, because it's

meant to keep you from going farther. Invite God and others in, knowing: [He gives grace to the humble.](#)

Or are you struggling in some relationships? What kind of metaphorical clothes are you wearing? Have you clothed yourself with humility? Have you gone shopping with God? Do you look the way He wants you to look to others? What might need to change?

Are you weighed down with cares and concerns? Is your load too heavy? Feel crushed? Burdened? Heart racing? Mind Racing? You might be trying to bury it and hope it doesn't pop back up, or you might be doing your best to tackle it and still feeling overwhelmed. Have you [cast it on God](#)? And when it came back, did you cast it again? Are you inviting Him into the issue and asking what He wants to do about it?

Or is this the morning when you finally need to turn it all over to God for the very first time. You've been thinking about this, looking into this, maybe you've still even got a few questions, but God is speaking to you, and you know it. He's calling you to give up control and direction of your life. You're tired of living your life, your way. You don't want to resist Him any longer and you want Him to forgive you for all the times you have.

If so, this is your time to pray, it's a time for all of us to pray, to take your needs to God and sort things out.

So let's do that now. Let's pray.



Sermon Application and Discussion Questions

1 Peter 5:5-7

A Call To Christian Humility

Summary: *God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble*; therefore, Christians should live in humble submission to God and each other.

- Where do you find pride making itself a nest in your life? What do you think you know best about?
- Where and how have you seen pride damage personal relationships or harm others?
- How does being clothed with humility before God make it easier for you to begin interacting with other people that way too, and for them to begin to do the same for you?
- Pride almost always relies on relative comparisons – comparing myself to others and then feeling good about me because I’m better than you. How does this play out in your life? Why do think we need to feel we’re better than others?
- What is the other side of relative comparisons? If I look at others and think I’m better than they are, and it contributes to my pride, what do I feel when I notice that others are better than me?
- Look up Proverbs 6:16-19 – what do you learn about God’s attitude toward pride?
- Would you rather spend time with someone who was drop dead gorgeous, heart swooningly handsome, but full of themselves, or someone who was plain as day and yet humble, kind, and thought of others ahead of themselves? Why? Do you have any personal experiences that inform this choice?
- Have you ever felt like a computer without a power cord? What difference can it make to invite God to be the power in your life?
- What things are you holding on to and trying to deal with on your own? How could you cast your cares upon the Lord? What would that mean? What would it look like?