

Thriving in Babylon—Humility

Review:

- How do we not only survive but also THRIVE in an increasingly Godless culture?
- Our culture is Babylon but there have been worse Babylons.
- God is in control of those who are in control.
- Counterfeit faith vs. Genuine faith.
- To be a spiritually thriving community, we need to be people of faith evidenced by HOPE, HUMILITY, and WISDOM.
- Daniel learned to be a thriver from a thriving community!

“You can count the apples in a tree, but who can count the apples in a seed?”

- Billy Graham and Edward Kimball

This week: _____ Humility

1 Peter 5:5b (NIV) “God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.”

- Humility was emphasized in the Bible.

Humility is a _____!

1 Peter 5:5-6 (NIV) ⁵ “In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, ‘God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.’” ⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time.”

- Humility is an action and is rewarded.
- God gives grace to the humble.
 - Not the righteous.
 - Not the strong.
 - Not the wise.
- How Daniel showed humility
 - He has an accurate view of himself. (**Daniel 1:4-5**)
 - The way he asked those in authority. (**Daniel 1:8-14**)
 - How he submitted to godless authority. (**Daniel 1:18-20**)
 - The way he honored the evil king. (**Daniel 2:31, 37; 4:19, etc.**)
 - How he consistently pointed to God.

The need to _____ Humility

- The Enemy hates humility.
- Our World hates humility.
- Biblical Humility is **not** self-hate, self-belittling, or low self-esteem.
- Biblical Humility is an accurate view of self.
 - **Romans 12:3** (NLT) “Don’t think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves.”
 - It is dealing with **your** hurts, habits, and hang-ups. (**Matthew 7:1-5**)
 - It is **not** downplaying your accomplishments.

Scripture quotations marked NIV are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version. Copyright 1978 by New York International Bible Society.

Scripture quotations marked NLT are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright 1996, 2004. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Wheaton, IL 60189. All rights reserved.

- Biblical Humility is not thinking **LESS** of yourself, but it is thinking of yourself less.

Humility _____!

Philippians 2:3-5 (NIV) “³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. ⁵ In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus.”

- Jesus exemplified Humility. (**Matthew 5:43-48; John 13:1-17**)
- Daniel served multiple evil kings in the most godless culture ever!

Humility does not _____ its own praises!

“Biblical humility is willing to be overlooked. It doesn’t insist on public honor or acknowledgement. It doesn’t trumpet status or accomplishments in an unseemly manner.” *Thriving in Babylon* by Larry Osborne, pg. 149.

- **Daniel 5:1-12** - Daniel was forgotten by Nebuchadnezzar’s successor.
- **Proverbs 27:2** (NIV) “Let someone else praise you, and not your own mouth; an outsider, and not your own lips.”

Humility _____!

- **Romans 13:1-2** (NLT) “Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God. ² So anyone who rebels against authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and they will be punished.”
- **Hebrews 5:7-8** (NLT) “⁷ While Jesus was here on earth, He offered prayers and pleadings, with a loud cry and tears, to the One who could rescue Him from death. And God heard His prayers because of His deep reverence for God. ⁸ Even though Jesus was God’s Son, He learned obedience from the things He suffered.”

Humility _____!

- **1 Peter 2:17** (NLT) “¹⁷ Respect everyone, and love the family of believers. Fear God, and respect the king.”

Practical Steps to express and grow in humility:

- Prayer. (**Matthew 6:9-13**)
- God’s Word. (**Hebrews 4:12-13**)
- Confess sins to God and others. (**1 John 1:9; James 5:16**)
- Do life with other believers. (**Proverbs 27:17**)

Every Daniel needs a thriving community. Every Billy Graham needs an Edward Kimball. Who needs you?

Questions to Ponder:

1. Which of the scriptures stands out as new, fresh, or challenging to you? Come back to it throughout the week!
2. What is challenging your understanding of humility?
3. What is the result of humility in your life?
4. What is the value of humility for thriving in our culture?
5. Prayerfully consider a relationship or circumstance where you can show humility this week. Share with someone how this goes.
6. Who needs your impact in their life? How can humility help you begin making this impact?

Scripture quotations marked NIV are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version. Copyright 1978 by New York International Bible Society.

Scripture quotations marked NLT are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright 1996, 2004. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Wheaton, IL 60189. All rights reserved.