

Word of Life Christian Learning Center  
Sermon NOTES

# The Sin of Pride

## INTRODUCTION

LET'S BEGIN THIS SERIES OF LESSONS ON HUMILITY BY TALKING ABOUT ITS ANTITHESIS [opposite, opposition]

### 2 Timothy 3:1-4

- 1 But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come.
- 2 For men will be **lovers of self**, lovers of money, **boastful**, **arrogant**, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy,
- 3 unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good,
- 4 treacherous, reckless, **conceited**, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

THE WORLD IS FULL OF SELF-LOVERS, SELF-SATISFIERS, SELF PROMOTERS, ETC.

We live in a world that exalts self-love, self-satisfaction, self-promotion.

AT THE ROOT OF ALL THIS SELFISHNESS IS PRIDE....

PRIDE IS CHERISHED – PRIDE IS ENCOURAGED, EVEN

PRIDE IS EVEN AN EXALTED VIRTUE IN TODAY'S SOCIETY.....

## DEFINITION OF PRIDE

**Pride is to have inordinate** [excessive] **and unreasonable** [irrational, extreme] **self-esteem** [value, appreciate, prize, cherish admire, honor, hold dear, high regard]; **usually resulting in disrespectful, foul, rude and sometimes vulgar treatment of others.**

To have an excessively favorable opinion of [to be conceited concerning] one's own talents, beauty, wealth, accomplishments, rank or elevation in office, which manifests itself in lofty airs, distance from others, detachment from others, and often in contempt of others.

To have a noble self-esteem springing from a **consciousness of worth.**

Pride is a brute beast that lives in the heart of man ....

I believe, it is the root of all sin ...

.....it is the foundation upon which the building of sin rests.

From pride comes all of the evil that men think, say, and do!!!

Much — if not all — of this pride is motivated by the desire of men and women either to **serve themselves** or to **protect their place** at the **center of their existence**.

**Pride** manifests itself by praising ourselves,  
adoring ourselves,  
attempting to appear before others in a superior light to what we are;  
contempt and slander of others;  
envy at the excellences others possess;  
anxiety to gain applause;  
distress and rage when slighted;  
impatience of contradiction,  
...and opposition to God himself.

PRIDE causes people to have a low estimate of the ability and worth of others and therefore to treat them with either contempt or cruelty

A proud person is usually wrapped up in their own importance – and when they speak it is to make their audience feel their inferiority.

The nature of pride is sinister, sneaky, treacherous, deceitful, devious and unsearchable [hidden, mysterious, unfathomable – not understood] in the way it operates

It seems to worm its way into everything.

Even the **purest actions** of Christians are deeply affected by it. Indeed, it is possible to be proud of one's confessions of sin and unworthiness or secretly to congratulate oneself on one's "brokenness."

It has spread itself universally in all nations, among all people;

PRIDE is at the root of discontent, ingratitude, covetousness, extravagance, bigotry, war, and persecution.

I believe that pride is connected with every evil perpetrated either in a proximate or remote sense.

PRIDE dulls our sense of appreciation for the kindness and mercy of God – negates continual thankfulness.

**PRIDE DARKENS OUR HEARTS**

SOMEONE once said that he would rather be hanged and his body thrown in a swamp than that anyone should be allowed to look into his heart!

It is no wonder that the Word of God sees pride, not a virtue but as a wicked and very ugly sin.

Pride is rebellion against God, period!!!!!!!

It is pride that seeks to dethrone God and to replace him with self.

Pride is self-admiration in the heart!!!!

MEANING, PRIDE attributes to self the honor and glory due to God alone.

Proud persons do not think it necessary to ask forgiveness because they do not perceive let alone admit their sinful condition.

### **BIBLICAL DEFINITION OF PRIDE IN A NUTSHELL**

#### **Romans 1:19-22**

19 because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them.

20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

21 **For even though they knew God**, they did not honor Him as God **or give thanks**, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

22 Professing to be wise, they became fools,

PRIDE refuses to thank God - instead it cherishes an exalted opinion of the self

#### **Romans 12:3**

3 For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not **to think more highly of himself than he ought to think**; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.

#### **1 Corinthians 10:12**

12 Therefore let him who **thinks he stands** take heed that he does not fall.

### **PRIDE IN ACTION**

#### **1 Corinthians 13:4-7**

4 Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant,

5 does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered,

### **SCRIPTURAL EXAMPLES OF PRIDE**

#### **2 Chronicles 26:16-21**

##### **Pride Is Uzziah's Undoing**

16 But when he became strong, his heart was so **proud** that he acted corruptly, and he was unfaithful to the Lord his God, for he entered the temple of the Lord to burn incense on the altar of incense.

17 Then Azariah the priest entered after him and with him eighty priests of the Lord, valiant men.

18 They opposed Uzziah the king and said to him, "It is not for you, Uzziah, to burn incense to the Lord, but for the priests, the sons of Aaron who are consecrated to burn incense. Get out of the sanctuary, for you have been unfaithful and will have no honor from the Lord God."

19 But Uzziah, with a censer in his hand for burning incense, was enraged; and while he was enraged with the priests, the leprosy broke out on his forehead before the priests in the house of the Lord, beside the altar of incense.

20 Azariah the chief priest and all the priests looked at him, and behold, he was leprous on his forehead; and they hurried him out of there, and he himself also hastened to get out because the Lord had smitten him.

21 King Uzziah was a leper to the day of his death; and he lived in a separate house, being a leper, for he was cut off from the house of the Lord. And Jotham his son was over the king's house judging the people of the land.

IN CONCLUSION, the proud person offends against God by **self-exaltation**, against other people by **self-preoccupation**, and against the self by **self-deception**.

PRIDE CAN TRICK SOMEONE INTO THINKING THEY ARE INVULNERABLE  
[untouchable, invincible, unbeatable] .....THE LORD GOD WILL SHOW THEM  
OTHERWISE

### **Obadiah 3-4**

3 "The **arrogance** of your heart has **deceived you**,  
You who live in the clefts of the rock,  
In the loftiness of your dwelling place,  
Who say in your heart,  
'Who will bring me down to earth?'

4 "Though you build high like the eagle,  
Though you set your nest among the stars,  
**From there I will bring you down," declares the Lord.**

### **Isaiah 2:10-12**

10 Enter the rock and hide in the dust  
From the terror of the Lord and from the splendor of His majesty.

**11 The proud look of man will be abased  
And the loftiness of man will be humbled,**  
And the Lord alone will be exalted in that day.

A Day of Reckoning Coming  
12 For the Lord of hosts will have a day of reckoning  
Against everyone who is **proud** and **lofty**  
And against everyone who is **lifted up**,  
That he may be abased.

*SKIP TO VERSE 17*

17 The **pride of man** will be humbled  
And the **loftiness of men** will be abased;  
And **the Lord alone** will be exalted in that day,

**Matt 23:12**

12 "Whoever exalts himself **shall be humbled**; and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted.

**James 4:6/1 Peter 5:5**

5 You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for **GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.** *Prov 3:34*

PRIDE GRIPS EVERY HUMAN HEART.

That's why the gate is narrow, and that's why the way is hard, and that's why you press into the Kingdom.....

**Matthew 7:13-16**

13 "Enter through the narrow gate; for the **gate is wide** and the **way is broad** that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it.

14 "For the **gate is small** and the **way is narrow** that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

**Luke 14:25-33**

25 Now large crowds were going along with Him; and He turned and said to them,

26 "If anyone comes to Me, and **does not hate** his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and **even his own life**, he cannot be My disciple.

PRIDE makes it difficult for you to **hate yourself**.

**Self-hate** is essential.

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You cannot come into my kingdom unless you don't hate your family, your friends and even yourself," he said.

**Matthew 10:37-39**

37 "He who **loves father or mother more than Me** is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.

38 "And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.

39 "He who has found his life will lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake will find it.

PRIDE also makes it hard to deny yourself.

**Luke 9:23**

23 And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must **deny** [disown, reject, hand over, surrender, abandon, to relinquish, give up rights, comforts, conveniences] **himself**, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.

To refuse to associate any longer with the person you are.

To set aside your own desires, ambitions, dreams and goals, and come naked and empty-handed, penitent, broken and contrite.

*SKIP TO VERSE 33*

**Luke 14:33**

33 "So then, none of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions.

### **DESTRUCTIVE EFFECTS OF PRIDE**

1. Pride ruins unity; it destroys relationships

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### **THE DISCIPLES ARGUE AMONGST THEMSELVES**

**Luke 9:46-48**

46 An **argument started among** them as to which of them might be the greatest.

*JESUS TEACHES THEM HUMILITY*

47 But Jesus, knowing what they were thinking *in their heart* [where pride begins], took a child and stood him by His side,

48 and said to them, "Whoever receives this child in My name receives Me, and whoever receives Me receives Him who sent Me; for the one who is least among all of you, this is the one who is great."

They were a team.

They were a unit.

They were one.

They weren't supposed to be competing with each other.

They were called, commissioned, commanded, and empowered by God.

ARGUMENTS CONTINUE.....

**Luke 22:24**

24 And **there arose also a dispute among them** as to which one of them was regarded to be greatest.

*LOOK AT WHEN THIS HAPPENS*

OPEN BIBLE AND READ ON DOWN

PRIDE DESTROYS RELATIONSHIPS

IT RUINS UNITY

LOVE DOES JUST THE OPPOSITE

IT BUILDS AND STRENGTHENS RELATIONSHIPS

IT PROMOTES UNITY

**1 Corinthians 13:4-8**

4 Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not **brag** and is not **arrogant**, 5 does not act unbecomingly; it does not **seek its own**, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, 6 does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

8 Love never fails; but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be done away.

### **Philippians 2:3-4**

3 Do nothing from **selfishness** [is to persistently seek personal advantage and gain, regardless of its effect on others.....

This word describes someone who strives to advance himself by using flattery, deceit, false accusation, contentiousness, and any other tactic that seems advantageous. Selfish ambition; to want things for yourselves....] or **empty conceit** [a desire to honor ourselves, to attract attention to ourselves, to win praise, to make ourselves uppermost, or foremost, or to be the main object. A cheap desire to show off because you are so proud of yourselves or because you want people to know how great you think you are.], but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves;

4 do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

### **Galatians 5:26**

26 Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another.

### **James 4:1-10**

1 What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members?

2 You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask.

3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.

1. Pride ruins unity; it destroys relationships

2. Secondly, pride desires superiority over others.

**Pride seeks to elevate itself.**

### **Luke 22:24**

24 And **there arose also a dispute among them** as to which one of them was regarded to be greatest.

The dispute reveals the pride of that was in their hearts.

### **Pharisees**

#### **Mark 12:38-39**

38 In His teaching He was saying: "Beware of the scribes who like to walk around in long robes, and like respectful greetings in the market places, 39 and chief seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets,

#### **Matthew 6:1-6**

1 "Beware of **practicing your righteousness before men** to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven.

2 "So when you give to the poor, do not **sound a trumpet before you**, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be honored by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full.

3 "But when you give to the poor, **do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,**

4 so that your giving will be in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.

5 "When you pray, you are not to be like the hypocrites; for they love to **stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners** so that they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full.

6 "But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.

**Pride**, in desiring to show itself superior to others, **often compares itself with everybody else.**

### *The tax collector and the sinner*

#### **Luke 18:10-14**

10 "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

11 "The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: 'God, I thank You that **I am not like other people:** swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector.'

12 'I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.'

13 "But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, the sinner!'

14 "I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who **exalts himself** will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

#### **2 Corinthians 10:12**

12 For we are not bold to class or **compare ourselves** with some of those who commend themselves; but when they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are without understanding.

1. Pride ruins unity and destroys relationships
2. Secondly, pride desires superiority over others.
3. Pride is merciless.

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#### **Luke 9:52-56**

52 and He sent messengers on ahead of Him, and they went and entered a village of the Samaritans to make arrangements for Him. 53 **But they did not receive Him**, because He was traveling toward Jerusalem.

54 When His disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, **do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?"**

55 But He turned and rebuked them [for their bitterness and prejudicial and racial hatred of the Samaritans], [*and said, "You do not know what kind of spirit you are of;*

*56 for the Son of Man **did not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them.**"*] And they went on to another village.

#### **Matthew 18:23-35**

23 "For this reason the **kingdom of heaven** may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves.



24 "When he had begun to settle them, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him.

25 "But since he did not have the means to repay, his lord commanded him to be sold, along with his wife and children and all that he had, and repayment to be made.

26 "So the slave fell to the ground and prostrated himself before him, saying, 'Have patience with me and I will repay you everything.'

27 "And the lord of that slave felt compassion and released him and forgave him the debt.

28 "But that slave went out and found one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and he seized him and began to choke him, saying, 'Pay back what you owe.'

29 "So his fellow slave fell to the ground and began to plead with him, saying, '**Have patience with me and I will repay you.**' [same exact words he used when pleading for mercy v.26]

30 "But he was **unwilling** and went and threw him in prison [now there is no chance of the debt being repaid] until he should pay back what was owed.

Two facts should have made this slave especially merciful.

**One** – he and his fellow slave were closer in rank and status..

**Two**...the amount of debt he had been forgiven by the king was immeasurably greater than the amount he refused to forgive his fellow slave.

His mind-set should have been to search out his fellow slave to forgive him rather than condemn him.

There is no indication, however, that his own experience of mercy made him grateful, and it clearly did not make him merciful.

Instead, he became proud, presumptuous [inconsiderate, disrespectful] and hardhearted.

Unfortunately, as Christians we sometimes reflect a similar arrogance and insensitivity.

Although we have been totally and forever forgiven of all offenses before God, on the basis of His grace, we often act as if we were forgiven on the basis of our own merit.

We may even look down on our brothers and sisters in Christ with contempt and a sense of superiority.

BACK TO THE TEXT

**MATT 18:31**

31 "So when his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved and came and reported to their lord all that had happened.

32 "Then summoning him, his lord said to him, 'You wicked slave, **I forgave you all that debt** because you pleaded with me.

33 'Should you not also have had **mercy** on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you?'

34 "And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him. [*Him being the fellow slave #2. What slave #1 owed slave #2 was forgiveness and owed the Lord repentance. I believe, this is brought out in the next verse....*]

35 "My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you **does not forgive his brother** from your heart."

### **Matthew 5:7**

7 "Blessed are the **merciful**, for they shall receive mercy.

1. Pride ruins unity and destroys relationships
  2. Secondly, pride desires superiority over others.
  3. Pride is merciless.
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### **PRIDE MUST BE KILLED!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

#### **Romans 8:13**

13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you **put to death the deeds of the body**, you will live.

#### **Colossians 3:5 ESV**

5 **Put to death** therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

#### **Col 3:5 AMP**

5 **So kill** (deaden, deprive of power) **the evil desire lurking in your members** [those animal impulses and all that is earthly in you that is employed in sin]: **sexual vice, impurity, sensual appetites, unholy desires, and all greed and covetousness, for that is idolatry** (the deifying of self and other created things instead of God).

#### **1 Samuel 15:32-33**

32 Then Samuel said, "Bring here to me Agag the king of the Amalekites." And Agag came to him cheerfully. Agag said, "Surely the bitterness of death is past."

33 And Samuel said, "As your sword has made women childless, so shall your mother be childless among women." And Samuel **hacked Agag to pieces** before the Lord in Gilgal.

Putting pride to death is lifelong work of the most difficult kind.

We get no help from our culture.

### **HUMILITY**

**ta pei nos** – literally means, low lying, not rising far from the ground; flat.

When it refers to a person, this word is translated lowly, of low degree, of low estate, lowly in spirit; modest [unwillingness to draw attention to your own achievements or abilities], to have a modest [simple, ordinary unpretentious, quiet] opinion of one's self; to behave in an unassuming [not easily seen or noticed] manner.

To esteem [value] oneself as small before God and men; to take a low estimate [to roughly judge/assess the value or quality] of oneself.

To recognize and acknowledge one's true condition.

In other words, a recognition that **by ourselves** [apart from the power of God, the goodness.... the grace.... and mercy....**Jn 15:5**] **we are inadequate** [lacking, insufficient, deficient, hopeless], **without dignity** [nobleness, excellence, goodness, majesty, propriety [politeness, decorum, modesty, respectability, decency] **and worthless** [valueless, insignificant, useless; empty, without meaning, pointless]

### MINNESOTA CRIME COMMISSION STATEMENT

In 1926 The Minnesota Crime Commission, which was established by then Governor Theodore Christianson of Minnesota, published its findings concerning the cause of crime in the state of Minnesota.

**'Every baby starts life as a little savage.**

**He is completely selfish, and self-centered.**

**He wants what he wants when he wants it - his bottle, his mother's attention, his playmate's toys, his uncles' watch. Deny him these once, and he seethes with rage and aggressiveness, which would be murderous were he not so helpless.**

**He is, in fact, dirty.**

**He has no morals, no knowledge, no skills.**

**This means that all children - not just certain children - are born delinquent. If permitted to continue in the self-centered world of his infancy, given free reign to his impulsive actions,**

**to satisfy his wants, every child would grow up a criminal - a thief, a killer, or a rapist.'**  
(Lou Nicholes - Missionary/Author).

When I tell you... that **by ourselves** [apart from the power of God, the goodness.... the grace.... and mercy....**Jn 15:5**] **we are inadequate** [lacking, insufficient, deficient, hopeless], **without dignity** [nobleness, excellence, goodness, majesty, propriety [politeness, decorum, modesty, respectability, decency] **and worthless** [valueless, insignificant, useless; empty, without meaning, pointless]

### **1 Peter 1:18-19**

**18 knowing that you were ransomed** [to be set free by payment, redeemed] **from the futile** [worthless, hopeless, meaningless] **ways** [lifestyle, manner of living; what was thought, said and done before you were saved and which failed to meet God's standards. It was a futile life, in that it did not measure up to that for which human life was created, to glorify God] **inherited from your forefathers** [parents, grand-parents, great-grand parents, etc. The phrase "received by

tradition from your fathers" is the translation of one Greek word which means literally "given from father."

That is, this futile manner of life was passed down to the son from the father through the channels of heredity, teaching, example, and environment.

The child is born in sin, that is, comes into being with a totally depraved nature, and if the parents are unsaved, comes into a home where evil customs and practices are observed. What the child inherits, Peter calls a futile manner of life], **not with perishable things such as silver or gold** [standard form of payment for slaves], **19 but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.**

### False humility

False Humility - [thinking poorly of oneself, low self-esteem, feeling inferior]

**FALSE HUMILITY** is to have a self-defeating mind-set and poor self-image, evaluating oneself too negatively – I'm a failure, I'm worthless, I can't do anything right, no one likes me.....this is often used as bait to catch the praises of others.

**FALSE HUMILITY** is the tendency to be self-despising or to belittle oneself, to be self-deprecating around others, excessively modest...

**FALSE HUMILITY** is to be preoccupied with anxious concern for oneself, can't focus on others

**FALSE HUMILITY** is to be a people pleaser – does whatever others want regardless of what is the prudent or the right thing to do

**FALSE HUMILITY** is to be timid or insecure – lacking in self- assurance, afraid to take initiative, afraid to speak up or be assertive when needed

**FALSE HUMILITY** is to be overly dependent on what others think – causing one to lack prudence to think and judge rightly

**FALSE HUMILITY** is fearful of correction and feedback because of low self-worth or poor self-image.

**FALSE HUMILITY** uses an humble Tone of Voice to sound/appear meek, gentle and mild. In other words, in order to convince others that they are humble.

**FALSE HUMILITY** believes that Eschewing Money or Fame is the Same Thing as Being Humble.

This person lacks the understanding that pride comes from the heart, not from possessions.

**False humility** is to humble yourself with the feeling that you are superior to others.

**False humility**, in my opinion, is a form of self-righteousness...and is directly linked to PRIDE.

**FALSE HUMILITY** is an “**act**” of humility rather than the true heart-conditioned practice of it.

People who operate in False Humility take on the “**appearance**” and **perform the actions** characteristic of a humble person but do not believe in being humble as a heart conditioned decision.

In a nutshell, it’s a form of **pretentiousness**.

This is why in the church you will find .....

## **2 Timothy 3:5**

5 having the **appearance of godliness**, but denying its power. Avoid such people.

### *FALSE HUMILITY IN ACTION*

#### **Matthew 7:21-23**

I Never Knew You

21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

22 On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and **do many mighty works in your name?**'

23 And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you **workers of lawlessness.**'

#### **Matthew 6:16-17**

Fasting

16 "And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they **disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others**. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.

17 But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face,

### *AN ARTICLE ON FALSE HUMILITY ON THE INTERNET*

I will admit that I am really bad at receiving compliments.

I dismiss them even before the compliment is fully out of the person’s mouth.

That response can also look like humility. It’s not.

I think the lie behind false humility is that I think dismissing a compliment, or encouragement, makes me look humble.

I can’t even say, “thank you” before I am justifying why I am not that compliment.

Choosing humility does not come at the price of my own self-worth.

If I am responding in a way that dismisses my self-worth...if I’m tearing myself down that is not genuine humility....

“Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it is thinking of yourself less” ~ C S Lewis

False humility spends a lot of time telling folks how humble they are.

Someone who is really humble is not even aware of their humility. They aren't absorbed with themselves at all.

**False humility** has to be guarded against.

### **GENUINE HUMILITY**

***ta pei nos'*** – literally means, low lying, not rising far from the ground; flat.

When it refers to a person, this word is translated lowly, of low degree, of low estate, lowly in spirit; modest [unwillingness to draw attention to your own achievements or abilities], to have a modest [simple, ordinary unpretentious, quiet] opinion of one's self; to behave in an unassuming [not easily seen or noticed] manner.

To esteem [value] oneself as small before God and men; to take a low estimate [to roughly judge/assess the value or quality] of oneself.

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In other words, a recognition that **by ourselves** [apart from the power of God, the goodness.... the grace.... and mercy....**Jn 15:5**] **we are inadequate** [lacking, insufficient, deficient, hopeless], **without dignity** [nobleness, excellence, goodness, majesty, propriety [politeness, decorum, modesty, respectability, decency] **and worthless** [valueless, insignificant, useless; empty, without meaning, pointless]

**True/Genuine/Real humility** on our own is an impossibility!!!!!!

GENUINE/TRUE/REAL HUMILITY is a product of the Holy Spirit.

GENUINE/TRUE/REAL HUMILITY produces a **freedom from arrogance** that grows out of the recognition that **all we have and are comes from God** – this is the **habitual frame** of mind of a child of God.

#### **John 15:5**

5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, **for apart from me you can do nothing.**

#### **Acts 17:28**

28 for **"In him we live and move and have our being'**; as even some of your own poets have said, **"For we are indeed his offspring.'**

#### **Ephesians 2:8-10**

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And **this is not your own doing**; it is the gift of God, 9 **not a result of works**, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are **his workmanship**,

created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

### **1 Corinthians 4:7**

7 For who sees anything different in you? What do you have [NOTHING] that you did not receive [from GOD]? If then you received it [from GOD], why do you boast as if you did not receive it [from GOD]?

### **Romans 12:3**

3 For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you **not to think of himself more highly** than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith **that God has assigned**.

### **Philippians 4:13**

13 I can do all things **through him** who strengthens me.

### **2 Corinthians 3:5**

5 Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but **our sufficiency is from God**,

### **1 Corinthians 3:5-7**

5 What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each.

6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.

7 So neither he who plants nor he who waters **is anything, but only God who gives the growth**.

### CHARACTER TRAITS OF THOSE WHO ARE HUMBLE

**Number one**, humble people never want to do anything to cause another believer to stumble.

**Number two**, humble people are eager, ready and willing to forgive.

**Number three**, humble people are continually conscious of their own feebleness, inadequacies, shortcomings and limitations.

**Number four**, humble people understand that when they serve God they serve Him in an inferior way.

**Number one**, humble people never want to do anything to cause another believer to stumble.

Humble people never want to **live** contrary to the Word of God.

They never want to **teach** anything that is contrary to the Word of God.

Because to do so just might hinder the faith of a believer....and humble people never want to do that

Humble people never want to hinder the understanding of a believer

Humble people never want to hinder the spiritual progress of a believer

Humble people never want to interfere with a Believer's grasp of the truth  
 Humble people never want to do anything that would damage/hinder a Believer's growth to Christ's likeness

Causing a believer to stumble/sin is viewed by God as a horrendous, atrocious, unspeakable, horrific, heinous, monstrous, shockingly evil and enormously wicked **crime**

To do so is so bad that you'd be better off dead – right now

### **Luke 17:1-4**

1 And he said to his disciples, "Temptations to sin are sure to come, but woe to the one through whom they come!

2 It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck and he were cast into the sea than that he should cause one of these little ones to sin.

3 Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him,

4 and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' you must forgive him."

### **Luke 17:1-2**

**1 And he said to his disciples, "Temptations to sin** [*skan' da la* – *literally*, the movable stick or trigger of a trap, trap-stick; a trap, snare; any impediment placed in the way and causing one to stumble or fall.

*Metaphorically*, any person or thing by which one is ("entrapped") drawn into error or sin; offenses, stumbling blocks, snares, traps causing one to sin] **are sure to come** [*an nen' dek tos* – literally means impossible, not supposable, cannot be admitted, unallowable – negatively expressed - it cannot be but that they will come; it is impossible that things which cause people to sin should not happen; IN OTHER WORDS, things that make people fall into sin are bound to happen], **but woe** [curse, damnation, destruction, condemnation; to be subject to severe divine judgement] **to the one through whom they come!** [Even though it is guaranteed to happen, whoever causes a believer to sin is fully responsible]

Ways believers can be made to stumble into sin.

#### **1] Direct Temptation**

This is temptation that comes to a Believer directly from another person....

#### **Eve**

After being enticed by Satan, immediately seduces **Adam** into joining her in disobeying God.

#### **Aaron**

The first high priest of Israel, caused the whole nation to sin by molding and then worshiping the golden calf while Moses was on Mount Sinai receiving the commandments from God.

#### **King Jeroboam**



The supremely sinful king who set an example of wickedness into which other sinful kings followed and later were described as walking "in the sins of Jeroboam."

### **1 Kings 16:31**

31 And as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the **sins of Jeroboam** the son of Nebat, he took for his wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians, and went and served Baal and worshiped him. ESV

### **2 Kings 3:3**

3 Nevertheless, he clung to the **sin of Jeroboam** the son of Nebat, which he made Israel to sin; he did not depart from it.

## **Pharisees**

### **Matthew 23:15**

15 Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel across sea and land to make a single proselyte [convert to Judaism], and when he becomes a proselyte, you make him **twice as much** a child of hell as yourselves.

## **Churches**

Churches that tolerate the teaching of false doctrine and the practice of wicked standards of living.

### **To the Church in Pergamum**

#### **Revelation 2:12-15**

12 "And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write: 'The words of him who has the sharp two-edged sword.

13 "I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. Yet you hold fast my name, and you did not deny my faith even in the days of Antipas my faithful witness, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.

14 But I have a few things against you: you have some there who **hold the teaching of Balaam**, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, so that they might eat food sacrificed to idols and practice sexual immorality.

15 So also you have some who hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans.

### **Church in Thyatira**

18 "And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: 'The words of the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and whose feet are like burnished bronze.

19 "I know your works, your love and faith and service and patient endurance, and that your latter works exceed the first.

20 But I have this against you, that you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess and is teaching and **seducing my servants** to practice sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols.

## **SOME PRACTICAL WAYS**

A **husband** today may suggest to his wife, "Let's add this deduction to our **income tax return**. It really doesn't qualify, but no one will ever know, and besides everyone else does it."

In doing that he **commits a double sin** by inducing his wife to join him in the fraudulence.

A **person** may talk a **co-worker** into joining him in inflating company expense reports and pocketing the difference. That person, too, commits the double sin Jesus is warning against here.

A **man** may seduce a **Christian woman** or lead her to watch immoral entertainment while on a date.

### 1] Direct Temptation

This is temptation that comes to a Believer directly from another person

### 2] Indirect temptation

This is when a Believer is caused to stumble into sin by being treated in an insensitive, unloving, or unkind way.

## JACOB'S FAVORED TREATMENT OF JOSEPH

### **Genesis 37:3-4**

3 Now Israel loved Joseph **more than any other of his sons**, because he was the son of his old age. And he made him a robe of many colors.

4 But **when his brothers saw** that their father loved him more than all his brothers, **they hated him** and could not speak peacefully to him.

## PARENT'S UNFAIR TREATMENT OF THEIR CHILDREN

### **Ephesians 6:4**

4 Fathers, **do not provoke your children** to anger [caused to be enraged], but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

### **Col 3:20-21**

21 Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged [dispirited – broken in spirit].

## Husbands and wives

### **Colossians 3:19**

19 **Husbands**, love your **wives**, and do not be harsh [to embitter, to exasperate, i. e. to render angry, indignant] with them.

### **Titus 2:3-5**

3 Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good,

4 and so train the **young women** to love their **husbands** and children,

5 to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled.

### **1 Corinthians 7:3-10**

#### *Principles for Marriage*

3 The **husband** should give to his **wife** her conjugal rights, and likewise the **wife** to her **husband**.

4 For the **wife** does not have authority over her own body, but the **husband** does. Likewise the **husband** does not have authority over his own body, but the **wife** does.

5 Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

### Employers and employees - Slaves and Masters

#### **Ephesians 6:5-9 AMP**

5 **Servants** (slaves), be obedient to those who are your physical **masters**, having respect for them and eager concern to please them, in singleness of motive and with all your heart, as [service] to Christ [Himself] —

6 Not in the way of eye-service [as if they were watching you] and only to please men, but as servants (slaves) of Christ, doing the will of God heartily and with your whole soul;

7 Rendering service readily with goodwill, as to the Lord and not to men,

8 Knowing that for whatever good anyone does, he will receive his reward from the Lord, whether he is slave or free.

9 You **masters**, act on the same [principle] toward **them** and give up threatening and using violent and abusive words, knowing that He Who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no respect of persons (no partiality) with Him.

### Pastors and congregation

#### **1 Peter 5:1-4 AMP**

1 I WARN and counsel the **elders** among you (the **pastors** and **spiritual guides** of the church) as a fellow elder and as an eyewitness [called to testify] of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a sharer in the glory (the honor and splendor) that is to be revealed (disclosed, unfolded):

2 Tend (nurture, guard, guide, and fold) the flock of God that is [your responsibility], not by coercion or constraint, but willingly; not dishonorably motivated by the advantages and profits [belonging to the office], but eagerly and cheerfully;

3 Not domineering [as arrogant, dictatorial, and overbearing persons] over those in your charge, but **being examples (patterns and models of Christian living)** to the flock (the congregation).

4 And [then] when the Chief Shepherd is revealed, you will win the conqueror's crown of glory.

#### **1] Direct Temptation**

This is temptation that comes to a Believer directly from another person

#### **2] Indirect temptation**

This is when a Believer is caused to stumble into sin by being treated in an insensitive, unloving, and unkind way.

#### **3] An ungodly example**

In other words, Believers, without having a word said to them, can be led into sinful attitudes and practices simply by following a bad, sinful, ungodly example of other Believers.

#### **1 Corinthians 11:1**

11 Be **imitators** of me, as I am of Christ.

#### **1 Thessalonians 1:5-6**

5 because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake.

6 And you became **imitators of us** and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit,

### **1 Thessalonians 2:10**

10 You are witnesses, and God also, how holy and righteous and blameless was our **conduct toward you believers**.

### **1 Timothy 4:12**

12 Let no one despise you for your youth, but **set the believers an example** in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.

### **Titus 2:7-8**

7 Show yourself in all respects to be **a model of good works**, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity,

8 and sound speech that **cannot be condemned**, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us.

### **James 3:13**

13 Who is wise and understanding among you? **By his good conduct** let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom.

### **1] Direct Temptation**

### **2] Indirect temptation**

### **3] An ungodly example**

### **4] A questionable example/action(s)/behavior**

This is when a mature Believer participates in an activity that in and of itself is not a sin for that believer, however, that activity may cause a weaker brother or sister to stumble or fall into sin.

Although the practice itself may not be sinful, it becomes sinful for the weaker Christian because it is done against their conscience.

Even when a person himself is not sinning, it is possible for him to lead others into sin by carelessly flaunting one's **liberty** in Christ.

### **Galatians 5:13**

13 For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your **freedom/liberty** as an opportunity for the flesh [only [do not let your] freedom be an opportunity or excuse [for selfishness]], but through love serve one another.

14 For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

15 But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.

### **Romans 14:20-23**

20 Do not, for the sake of food, destroy the work of God. Everything is indeed clean, but it is wrong for anyone to make another stumble by what he eats.

21 It is good not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything that causes your brother to stumble.

22 The faith that you have, keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who has no reason to pass judgment on himself for what he approves.

23 But whoever has doubts is condemned if he eats, because the eating is not from faith. For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin.

### **Romans 14:22-23 AMP**

22 Your personal convictions [on such matters] — exercise [them] as in God's presence, keeping them to yourself [striving only to know the truth and obey His will]. Blessed (happy, to be envied) is he who has no reason to judge himself for what he approves [who does not convict himself by what he chooses to do].

23 But the man who has doubts (misgivings, an uneasy conscience) about eating, and then eats [perhaps because of you], stands condemned [before God], because he is not true to his convictions and he does not act from faith. For whatever does not originate and proceed from faith is sin [whatever is done without a conviction of its approval by God is sinful].

### **1 Corinthians 8:4-13**

4 Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "an idol has no real existence," and that "there is no God but one." 5 For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords"— 6 yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

7 However, not all possess this knowledge. But some, through former association with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. 8 Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. 9 But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. 10 For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? 11 And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. 12 Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. 13 Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

#### **1] Direct Temptation**

#### **2] Indirect temptation**

#### **3] An ungodly example**

#### **4] A questionable example/action/behavior**

### **BACK TO THE TEXT**

#### **Luke 17:1**

**1 And he said to his disciples, "Temptations to sin [*skan' da la* – *literally*, the movable stick or trigger of a trap, trap-stick; a trap, snare; any impediment placed in the way and causing one to stumble or fall.**

***Metaphorically*, any person or thing by which one is ("entrapped") drawn into error or sin; offenses, stumbling blocks, snares, traps causing one to sin] **are sure to come [*an nen' dek tos* –****

literally means impossible, not supposable, cannot be admitted, unallowable – negatively expressed - it cannot be but that they will come; it is impossible that things which cause people to sin should not happen; IN OTHER WORDS, things that make people fall into sin are bound to happen], **but woe** [curse, damnation, destruction, condemnation; to be subject to severe divine judgement] **to the one through whom they come!** [Even though it is guaranteed to happen, whoever causes a believer to sin is fully responsible]

**2 It would be better** [profitable, useful, expedient, beneficial, advantageous] **for him** [the one causing the Believer to sin] **if a millstone** [a large stone weighing about a ton used for grinding grains into flour – turned by mules] **were hung around his neck and he were cast into the sea** [death by drowning was reprehensible to a Jew – Romans, Greeks and other nations used this as a form of execution] **than that he should cause one of these little ones** [not babies, infants - who are they? See below] **to sin.**

#### **Matthew 18:3-6**

3 and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become **like children**, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

4 Whoever **humbles himself like this child** [symbolic of a spiritual child of God] is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

5 "Whoever receives one such **child** in my name **receives me**,

6 but whoever causes one of these **little ones who believe in me** to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

#### **GOD IS FIERCELY PROTECTIVE OF HIS CHILDREN**

##### **Psalms 105:10**

11 saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan as your portion for an inheritance."

12 When they were few in number, of little account, and sojourners in it,

13 wandering from nation to nation, from one kingdom to another people,

14 **he allowed no one to oppress them;**

he rebuked kings on their account,

15 saying, "**Touch not my anointed ones, do my prophets no harm!**"

##### **Genesis 12:1-3**

1 Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.

2 And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.

3 **I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse,** and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

HOW YOU TREAT GOD'S PEOPLE IS HOW YOU TREAT JESUS CHRIST

**Luke 10:16**

16 "The one who **hears you hears me**, and the one who **rejects you rejects me**, and the one who **rejects me rejects him who sent me.**"

**Acts 9:3-6**

3 Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.

4 And falling to the ground he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you **persecuting me?**"

5 And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, **whom you are persecuting.**

**Matthew 25:34-40**

34 Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. 35 For **I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me,** 36 **I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.'** 37 Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? 38 And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? 39 And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' 40 And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the **least of these my brothers**, you did it to me.'

Number one, humble people never want to do anything to cause another believer to stumble.

Number two, humble people are eager, ready and willing to forgive.

**Luke 17:3-4**

3 Pay attention [be cautious about, pay attention to] to yourselves [one another]! If your brother sins, rebuke him [to reprove, to censure severely], and if he repents, forgive [to let go, let alone, let be; to disregard; to give up a debt by not demanding it; to keep no longer] him,

4 and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' you must forgive him."

MATTHEW ADDS TO THE ACCOUNT**Matt 18:21-22**

21 Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?"

22 Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, **but seventy times seven.**

CONDITIONAL FORGIVENESS**Luke 17:3-4**

3 Pay attention [be cautious about, pay attention to] to yourselves [one another]! If your brother sins, rebuke him [to reprove, to censure severely], **and if he repents**, forgive [to let go, let alone, let be; to disregard; to give up a debt by not demanding it; to keep no longer] him,

4 and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' you must forgive him."

## NOW, UNFORTUNATELY CHRISTIANS SIN

### 1 John 2:1-2

2 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone **does sin**, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

2 He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

.....**AND CHRISTIANS SIN EVEN THOUGH**.....

### WE'RE NO LONGER SLAVES OF SIN

#### **Rom 6:17-18**

17 But thanks be to God, that you who were **once slaves of sin** have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed,

18 and, having been **set free from sin**, have become **slaves of righteousness**.

**EVEN THOUGH THE ABOVE IS TRUE, WE STILL SIN – SOMETIMES DELIBERATELY AND SEVERLY**

IT IS USUALLY THESE SINS THAT ARE TO BE CONDITIONALLY FORGIVEN

### WHAT SINS ARE TO BE CONDITIONALLY FORGIVEN???

SINS that **affects the church**

SIN that is **regular** and **ongoing**

SIN that has become a **pattern**

SIN that is **visible to the public**

Sin that is **planned**, that is **willful**, that is **premeditated**, that is **habitual**.

ONCE A PERSON'S SIN FALLS INTO ANY OF THE ABOVE CATEGORIES, ONCE IT REACHES THAT LEVEL then it is to be dealt with conditionally and openly.

MATTHEW 18 GIVES US THE PROCESS OF OPEN FORGIVENESS

### **Matthew 18:15-20**

15 "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. **If he listens** [repents] to you, you have gained your brother. 16 But **if he does not listen** [refuses to repent – which means he has not met the condition for forgiveness], take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. 17 If he refuses to listen to them [refuses to repent – he STLL has not met the condition for forgiveness], tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church [refuses to repent – he STLL has not met the condition for forgiveness], let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector [You treat him as an unbeliever, but with love and compassion and with an evangelistic



attitude. However, we, the church, are not to allow them to be embraced within the fellowship of the church].

However, not all sins **fall into the category of conditional forgiveness.**

There are sins that fall into the category of.....

#### UNCONDITIONAL FORGIVENESS

Unconditional forgiveness involves sins that are.....

..irregular

..not premeditated

..not willfully and or habitually planned and engaged in.

#### **Galatians 6:1-2**

1 Brothers, if anyone is caught [Literally the word means being tripped up, to be trapped, to be drawn into, to stumble into, to fall into. In other words, you didn't see it coming, it's not premeditated.] in any transgression, you who are spiritual [led motivated, controlled, influenced and dominated by the Holy Spirit – READ Gal 5:16-26] should restore him in a spirit of gentleness [humility and meekness]. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted [this is the attitude of the humble].

2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

These are sins which believers fall into because WITHIN THEM, THAT IS IN THEIR FLESH, DWELLETH NO GOOD THING!!!!!!

#### **Romans 7:18**

18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out.

BY THE WAY, FORGIVENESS FOR SIN COMMITTED **AGAINST YOU PERSONALLY**, FOR THE MOST PART, IS TO BE UNCONDITIONAL

#### **Matt 18:21-22**

21 Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin **against me**, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?"

22 Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, **but seventy times seven**. NO CONDITION MENTIONED

NOW, I SAY FOR THE MOST PART BECAUSE.....

#### **Luke 17:3-4**

3 Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins [period], rebuke him, and if [condition] he repents, forgive him,

4 and if he sins **against you** seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' you **must** [no choice in the matter – once they repent] forgive him."

A MIGHTY EXAMPLE OF UNCONDITIONAL FORGIVENESS

#### **Mark 11:25-26**

25 And whenever you stand praying, **forgive**, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses."

**HUMBLE PEOPLE ARE EAGER, READY AND WILLING TO FORGIVE!!!! WHY???**

**BECAUSE HUMBLE PEOPLE ARE LOVING PEOPLE!!!**

AND HOW DOES LOVE BEHAVE TOWARDS SIN?????????

**1 Peter 4:8**

8 Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since **love covers a multitude of sins.**

**Proverbs 10:12**

12 Hatred stirs up strife,  
**but love covers all offenses.**

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO COVER SIN????

**Psalms 32:1**

1 Blessed is the one whose transgression is **forgiven**,  
whose sin is **covered**.

**Psalms 85:2**

2 You **forgave** the iniquity of your people;  
you **covered** all their sin.

TO COVER IS NOT TO HIDE SINS SO THAT THEY CAN FLOURISH!

IT MEANS TO FORGIVE!!!!

**BECAUSE HUMBLE PEOPLE ARE LOVING PEOPLE!!!**

**BECAUSE HUMBLE PEOPLE DESIRE TO IMITATE, FOLLOW, COPY GOD THEIR FATHER AS DEAR CHILDREN**

**Ephesians 5:1-2**

1 **Therefore** [as a result of previous verse] be **imitators of God**, as beloved children.  
2 And **walk in love**, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

**Ephesians 4:32**

32 Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

**Matthew 5:44-45**

44 But I say to you, **Love** your enemies and **pray** for those who persecute you,  
45 so that you may be **sons of your Father who is in heaven**. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

**Micah 7:18-19**

18 Who is a God like you, **pardoning iniquity**  
and **passing over transgression**

for the remnant of his inheritance?  
**He does not retain his anger forever,**  
 because he delights in steadfast love.  
 19 He will again have compassion on us;  
 he will tread our iniquities under foot.  
**You will cast all our sins**  
**into the depths of the sea.**

**Psalms 103:1-3**

1 Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
 and all that is within me,  
 bless his holy name!  
 2 Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
 and forget not all his benefits,  
**3 who forgives all your iniquity,**  
 who heals all your diseases,

**BECAUSE HUMBLE PEOPLE ARE LOVING PEOPLE!!!**

**BECAUSE HUMBLE PEOPLE DESIRE TO IMITATE, FOLLOW, COPY GOD THEIR  
 FATHER AS DEAR CHILDREN**

**BECAUSE THE HUMBLE UNDERSTAND THAT WHOEVER HAS OFFENDED  
 THEM HAS OFFENDED GOD MORE**

**Psalms 51:3-4**

3 For I know my transgressions,  
 and my sin is ever before me.  
 4 Against **you, you only**, have I sinned  
 and done what is evil in your sight,  
 so that you may be justified in your words  
 and blameless in your judgment.

ALL SINS ARE AGAINST GOD

ALL SIN IS AN OFFENSE AGAINST HIM.

ALL SIN IS A VIOLATION OF HIS HOLY NATURE,

ALL SIN IS A VIOLATION OF HIS HOLY PRESENCE,

ALL SIN IS A VIOLATION OF HIS HOLY LAW.

IF YOU OFFEND SOMEONE, YOU HAVE OFFENDED GOD FAR MORE.

IF SOMEONE OFFENDS YOU, GOD HAS BEEN OFFENDED FAR MORE.

AND SINCE GOD, WHO IS MOST OFFENDED, CAN/DOES FORGIVE, THEN YOU WHO ARE LEAST OFFENDED MUST FORGIVE.

UNGRATEFUL SERVANT

**Matthew 18:23-35**

23 "Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. 24 When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. 25 And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. 26 So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' 27 And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. 28 But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' 29 So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' 30 He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. 31 When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. 32 Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. 33 And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' 34 And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. 35 So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

If God has forgiven the greater, we must forgive the lesser.

**BECAUSE HUMBLE PEOPLE ARE LOVING PEOPLE!!!**

**BECAUSE HUMBLE PEOPLE DESIRE TO IMITATE, FOLLOW, COPY GOD THEIR FATHER AS DEAR CHILDREN**

**BECAUSE THE HUMBLE UNDERSTAND THAT WHOEVER HAS OFFENDED THEM HAS OFFENDED GOD MORE**

**BECAUSE YOU RECOGNIZE THAT THE OFFENSES AGAINST YOU ARE ALLOWED BY GOD FOR YOUR PERFECTION.**

GOD ALLOWS OFFENCES/TRIALS/TESTS

**1 Corinthians 10:13**

13 No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and **he will not let/allow you be tempted** beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

BENEFITS OF OFFENCES/TRIALS/TESTS

**James 1:2-4**

2 Count it **all joy**, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds,  
3 for you know that the **testing of your faith** produces steadfastness.

4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

### **1 Peter 4:12-13**

12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you **for your testing**, as though some strange thing were happening to you;

13 but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory **you may rejoice with exultation** [exceeding joy].

### **1 Peter 5:10**

10 And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, **will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.**

Number one, humble people never want to do anything to cause another believer to stumble.

Number two, humble people are eager, ready and willing to forgive.

Number three, humble people are continually conscious of their own feebleness, inadequacies, shortcomings and limitations.

Humble people distrust their own powers, might, abilities and strength.

As a result, humble people ALWAYS look to the Lord for aid, help, strength and support.

A person clothed in humility has an inward sense of their MANY imperfections and sins.

### **Luke 17:1-4**

1 And he said to his disciples, "Temptations to sin are sure to come, but woe to the one through whom they come!

2 It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck and he were cast into the sea than that he should cause one of these little ones to sin.

3 Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him,

4 and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' you must forgive him."

### **Increase Our Faith**

5 The apostles said to the Lord, "**Increase our faith!**"

LOOK AT PAUL.....

### **Rom 7:14-21**

14 For we know that the Law is spiritual, but I am of flesh, sold into bondage to sin.

15 For what I am doing, **I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate.**

16 But if I do the very thing I do not want to do, I agree with the Law, confessing that the Law is good.

17 So now, no longer am I the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me.

18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; **for the willing** [present infinitive - being constantly desirous] **is present in me, but the doing of the good** [carrying out to completion of the good that I am constantly desiring] **is not.**

19 For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want.

20 But if I am doing the very thing I do not want, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me.

## YOU LIVE WITH A CONSTANT SENSE OF DISAPPOINTMENT

-A **meek, gentle** person also understands that APART FROM GOD they are nothing, they can do nothing and they have nothing.

-They further understand that **who** they are, **what** they have and **whatever abilities** they possess, is because it was given to them by the grace and mercy of God and not because they deserved it.

### John 15:4-6

4 "Abide in Me, and I in you. As **the branch cannot bear fruit of *itself*** unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.

5 "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me **you can do *nothing*.**

### 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

1 And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God.

2 For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.

3 I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling,

4 and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,

**5 so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.**

### 1 Corinthians 4:7

7 For who regards [separates you from the others] you as superior [and sets you apart from another, giving you the preeminence]? What do you have that you did not receive? And if [since] you did receive it [from someone], why do you boast as if you had not received it [but had gained it by your own efforts]?

### 2 Cor 3:4-6

4 Such **confidence** [trust, reliance] we have through Christ toward God.

5 **Not that we are adequate** [to make sufficient, to render fit, to enable, to make competent] **in ourselves** to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but **our adequacy is from God,**

6 **who** also made us **adequate** as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter [external written code; the Law of Moses] kills [causes, leads to or brings spiritual death], but the Spirit gives life [the Holy Spirit raises from the dead spiritually speaking].

**Ephesians 6:10-17**

10 Finally, be strong **in the Lord** and in the strength of **his might**.

11 Put on the whole armor **of God**, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

13 Therefore take up the **whole armor of God**, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

14 Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

15 and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace.

16 In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one;

17 and take the helmet of salvation, and the **sword of the Spirit**, which is the **word of God**,

**Philippians 3:3**

3 for we are the true circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus **and put no confidence in the flesh**,

**Philippians 4:13**

13 I can do all things **through Him** who strengthens me.

**Colossians 1:28-29**

28 We proclaim [preach] Him, admonishing [warning] every man [everyone] and teaching [instructing] every man with all wisdom (comprehensive insight into the ways and purposes of God), so that we may present every man complete [mature (full-grown, fully initiated and perfect] in Christ (the Anointed One).

29 For this purpose also I labor [unto weariness], striving [with all the superhuman energy] **according to His power**, which [HE] mightily works within me.

NOW HOW DOES THIS FIT WITH THE TEXT

**Matt 18:21-22**

21 Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?"

22 Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, **but seventy times seven**.

LUKE ADDS.....

**Luke 17:1-4**

17 And he said to his disciples, "Temptations to sin are sure to come, but woe to the one through whom they come!

2 It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck and he were cast into the sea than that he should cause one of these little ones to sin.

3 Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him,

4 and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' you must forgive him."

**Increase Our Faith**

5 The apostles said to the Lord, "**Increase** [add to, supplement, develop, grow] **our faith!**"

LORD, if you will, **Increase** [add to, supplement, develop, grow] **our faith, our** trust in YOU and your strength, your power and might to do supernaturally what we cannot do humanly.

Humble people UNDERSTAND AND KNOW that all that they **have** and all that they **are** and all that they **do** IS BECAUSE OF THE GRACE OF GOD!!!

Number one, humble people never want to do anything to cause another believer to stumble.

Number two, humble people are eager, ready and willing to forgive.

Number three, humble people are continually conscious of their own feebleness, inadequacies, shortcomings and limitations.

Number four, humble people understand that when they serve God they serve Him in an inferior way.

Humble people also understand that no matter what they've done, no matter how well they've done it, they'll never be able to obey Him to the level that He is worthy of.

As long as we're here in this life, we can never serve God on the level He deserves to be served.

Humble people recognize that even their best service falls FAR short.

As long as we're here in this life, we can never give to God what He deserves.

LOOK AT WHAT Paul says in **1 Timothy**.....

**1 Tim 1:12-16**

12 I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because He considered me faithful, putting me into service,

13 even though I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor. Yet I was shown mercy because I acted ignorantly in unbelief;

14 and the grace of our Lord was more than abundant, with the faith and love which are found in Christ Jesus.

15 It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save **sinners**, among whom **I am foremost of all**.



**Luke 17:7-10**

7 "Which of you, having a slave plowing or tending sheep, will say to him when he has come in from the field, 'Come immediately and sit down to eat'?

8 "But will he not say to him, 'Prepare something for me to eat, and properly clothe yourself and serve me while I eat and drink; and afterward you may eat and drink'?"

9 "He does not thank the slave because he did the things which were commanded, does he?"

10 "So you too, when you do all the things which are commanded you, say, 'We are **unworthy slaves**; we have done only that which we ought to have done.'"

Number one, humble people never want to do anything to cause another believer to stumble.

Number two, humble people are eager, ready and willing to forgive.

Number three, humble people are continually conscious of their own feebleness, inadequacies, shortcomings and limitations.

Number four, humble people understand that when they serve God they serve Him in an inferior way.

**REWARDS OF HUMILITY**

**The Lord will lead and teach you**

**Psalms 25:8-10**

8 Good and upright is the Lord;

Therefore He instructs sinners in the way.

9 **He leads** the humble **in justice**, [to practice and carry out what is right]

And **He teaches** the humble **His way**.

10 All the paths of the Lord are lovingkindness and truth

To those who keep His covenant and His testimonies.

**Wisdom**

**Proverbs 11:2**

2 When pride comes, then comes dishonor [follows],

But with the humble is **wisdom**.

**Honor**

**Proverbs 15:33**

33 The fear of the Lord is the instruction for wisdom,

And before **honor** [from the Lord] comes humility.

EXPLAIN BEFORE.....compare the following verses to explain the word *before*

**Proverbs 16:18**

18 Pride goes **before** destruction,  
and a haughty spirit **before** a fall.

**Proverbs 29:23**

23 A man's pride will bring him low,  
But a humble spirit will obtain **honor**.

**Riches, honor and life****Proverbs 22:4**

4 The reward of humility and the fear of the Lord  
Are **riches, honor and life**.

**The path to greatness.....will be greatest in the KOH****Matthew 18:1-4**

1 At that time the disciples came to Jesus and said, "Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

2 And He called a child to Himself and set him before them,

3 and said, "Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.

4 "Whoever then humbles himself as this child, **he is the greatest** [most important or of highest rank] in the kingdom of heaven.

**Grace is given to the humble****1 Peter 5:5**

5 You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for **GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE**.

**Exaltation from God****James 4:10**

10 **Humble** yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and **He will exalt you**.

**1 Pet 5:6**

6 Therefore **humble** yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may **exalt you** at the proper time,

**WE ARE COMMANDED TO BE HUMBLE****Zephaniah 2:3**

3 Seek the Lord,

All you humble of the earth

Who have carried out His ordinances;

Seek righteousness, **seek humility**.

Perhaps you will be hidden

In the day of the Lord's anger.

**Colossians 3:12**

12 So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, **put on** a heart of compassion, kindness, **humility**, gentleness and patience;

**James 4:10**

10 **Humble** yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.

**1 Peter 3:8**

8 To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and **humble in spirit**;

**1 Peter 5:5-6**

5 You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, **clothe yourselves with humility** toward one another, for GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.

6 Therefore **humble** yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time,

**TO BE HUMBLE IS TO BE LIKE CHRIST****Matthew 11:29**

29 "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and **humble** in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS.

**WE ARE TO SERVE THE LORD WITH HUMILITY****Acts 20:19**

18 And when they had come to him, he said to them,  
"You yourselves know, from the first day that I set foot in Asia, how I was with you the whole time,

19 **servng the Lord** with **all humility** and with tears and with trials which came upon me through the plots of the Jews;

**Ephesians 4:1-2**

1 Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to **walk in a manner** worthy of the calling with which **you have been called**,

2 with **all humility** and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love,

**WE ARE TO SERVE ONE ANOTHER WITH HUMILITY****Philippians 2:3**

3 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but **with humility of mind regard one another** as more important than yourselves;

**WE ARE TO RECEIVE THE WORD WITH HUMILITY****James 1:21**

21 Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, **in humility receive the word** implanted, which is able to save your souls.