

## THE EXAMPLE OF HUMILITY SET BY JESUS

*“Have this mind among yourselves, which was also in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited; but made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.” (Philippians 2:5-8)*

As God, he became man.

As a man, he made himself a servant.

As a servant, he was obedient even unto death—death on a cross.

“Have this mind among yourselves” is in the imperative mood; in other words, the Apostle Paul is giving a command: “Have the same attitude that was in Christ Jesus.”

In other words: it is not enough to admire Christ—we must follow His example.

### **Humility is the absence of arrogance**

#### **What is humility not?**

Humility doesn't mean that beautiful people think they're ugly, or that intelligent people believe they're stupid. (C. S. Lewis)

#### **Inferiority complex**

It means feeling inferior to others. It means belittling oneself or denying one's own qualities.

People think: “I'm not capable,” “I'm worthless,” “I can't do it,” “I'm no good.”

An inferiority complex limits your potential in Christ.

#### **False modesty**

False modesty is pretending to be humble in order to receive praise.

The person says, “It was nothing...,” but hopes someone will reply, “No way! You were amazing!”



If, however, the praise doesn't come, she feels frustrated.

That's not humility—it's pride in disguise.

## **Arrogance**

The quality or character of someone who, based on a perceived moral, social, intellectual, or behavioral superiority, adopts an arrogant or contemptuous attitude toward others.

Synonyms: haughtiness, arrogance, conceit, pride.

The word “arrogant” is derived from the Latin *adrogare*, which means “to claim a right for oneself.”

The arrogant person demands recognition, demands status, demands deference. But the result is isolation: arrogant people push others away.

## **The Bible condemns pride**

*“Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.”* (Proverbs 16:18)

*“God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”* (1 Peter 5:5)

*“Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.”* (Matthew 23:12)

## **Superiority complex**

This occurs when a person believes they have a much greater capacity for achievement than they actually do. Their self-perception is extremely high.

### **Some features:**

- a habit of bragging all the time;
- the need to belittle others by pointing out their flaws and making comparisons;
- the quest for recognition;
- excessive concern about what others think;
- difficulty accepting criticism and acknowledging one's own mistakes;
- the need to constantly justify oneself.

All of this reveals an inflated and fragile ego.



## **The example of Jesus**

*“You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for that is what I am.”* (John 13:13)

*“Now, if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet; for I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.”* (John 13:14-15)

Humility isn't about denying who you are. It isn't about diminishing your identity.

Jesus was fully aware of himself. That is why Jesus was able to:

- washing feet without losing one’s dignity;
- serve without losing authority;
- step down while remaining king.

## **What is humility?**

“God wants to bring man to a state of mind in which he could design the most extraordinary building of all time, and know that it was indeed incomparable, and rejoice immensely at having designed it, without feeling a single milligram less happy (or more) if he knew it had been designed by someone else.” (C. S. Lewis)

God wants people to take joy in their own talents with the same gratitude they would feel if they belonged to someone else.

A humble person does not deny their talents. They simply know where they come from.

If we are aware that we were created by God and that everything comes from Him, then surely our talents are not the result of our own efforts either.

Humility is living with the awareness that everything comes from God and everything is for His glory.

C. S. Lewis says that if you meet a truly humble person, you won’t think, “What a humble person!”

You’ll think, “What a pleasant person... what a cheerful person... what a joy to be around.”

## **The humble one:**



- isn't trying to appear humble;
- isn't concerned about his own image;
- You don't need to keep comparing yourself to others;
- You don't need to keep trying to prove your worth;
- does not seek admiration;
- doesn't talk about themselves all the time;
- is free from himself.

“Humility isn’t thinking less of yourself, but thinking less about yourself.”

*“He must increase, but I must decrease.”* (John 3:30)

Eduardo Reck

