

## MODELING HUMILITY UNDER PERSECUTION

5:5-9

Peter now gives some instruction to keep order - not by leaders using authority over people but by willing humility among all.

**Question:** What is humility? What do we demonstrate when our life is characterized by humility?

**V.5 “Likewise,”** or, In the same way... refers to leader’s responsibility of being an **example**.

1. Peter addresses the **younger**... It seems that Peter’s only asking for the younger to submit to the elder, why not the middle age?
2. The attitude of the young men should parallel that of the elders.
  - a. Their youthful energy, eagerness could drive people, control people, and use people.
  - b. Instead they also should prove themselves to be examples. How? By showing respect to those whose life has wisdom and experience and who lead in a worthy manner.
3. **“And all of you”** he then expands the subject of submission to everyone without distinction, regardless of your age, status, gender or responsibility in the church...all are to have a sense of humbly submitting to one another.
  - a. **“Cloth yourself”** a term referred to a servant putting on an apron for serving. (John 13:4-17). All of our dealings with one another in the church should be with humility.
  - b. Why is this importance? **God opposes the proud...but give grace to the humble** (Prov. 3:34; James 4:6)
    - i. Opposes means, God is **aroused to action** when pride is projected through our lives. But He graciously meet us when we are humble.
    - ii. This tells us that we can’t see God clearly without our being humble
  - c. **Humility:** lowliness of mind, opposite of self-exalting. It assumes a lowly position (Rom. 12:16) Jesus is a ultimate example of humility (Matt 11:28-29)
    - i. We are conscious that our unworthiness before God should draws us to acknowledging our **dependence** and rest in His Sufficiency.
    - ii. Humility also acknowledges we serve a greater purpose, than “me” (Deut. 8:2-3)

**V.6 - “Therefore”** points to our need of humility toward God as a regular practice

1. **“Humble yourself”** Greek middle or passive voice, the passive best fits...**allow yourself to be humbled!** It fits the situation of his reader... facing persecuted.
2. This is not passive resignation...they were to accept the fiery trials (4:12,19) as from **the mighty hand of God**, which is working all things in accordance with His will.
  - a. The phrase pictures a General or King who has defeated their enemies.
  - b. In the OT the phrase is often used of discipline, and deliverance of God’s hand
3. The greater perspective is given **“in due time He will lift us up or exalt us”**
  - a. Though it may look like they were losing, yet we and our adversaries is under God’s Sovereignty and His timing.
  - b. Part of our humility- is patiently waiting for things to change on God’s timetable. Our **being exalted** is a work of God, and on His timetable.
  - c. Peter heard Christ say this... “The humble will be exalted, and proud will be humbled.” (Matt.23:12; Luke 14:11; 18:14).

**V.7-** Humbleness is learned as we **“cast all our anxiety on Him.”** Perhaps the anxiety was due to the persecution at the time... maybe past memories, present pressures, or future fears.

1. “**Cast**” means handing over, throwing over, and pictures a decisive and deliberate act. Freedom from anxious cares is needed in our humble submission to the Lord.
2. Why the reason for such action... “**because he cares for you.**” All our anxieties, whether trivial or great are a concern to Him.

**V.8** - Peter presents a balancing principle: with the right *to cast our burden on Him*, comes the *personal responsibility to be alert* to what is going on around us. The Christian life should be a consistent in balancing - of thoughts and actions.

1. Be sober or “**self-control**” and “**alert/watchful**”. Our trust and reliance on God should never put us in a careless state of mind... it should do the opposite.
  - a. There is a danger in making “God’s sovereignty & care” become an excuse for my inactivity and lack of mental alertness.
  - b. **Self-control**- is full possession of our facilities and feelings. (Who controls them?)
2. Because our opposition and enemy- Satan (John14:30; 8:44; Eph.2:2; 2Tim.2:25-26)
  - a. **The devil** a term describing one who slanderously uses false charges. **Your enemy** term used of an opponent in a lawsuit.
  - b. Satan works to accuse us from outside- the world persecution; in order to affect us on the inside, and bring on us guilt and shame. (The Accuser... Rev.12:10)
  - c. He **prowls** by looking and roaring, but also smiles like an angel of light. (2Cor.11:14)
  - d. His goal is to **devour** or totally destroy our faith.

**V.9** - Resistance comes by our “**standing firm**” in “**our faith**”

1. “**But resist him**” describes one who “holds their position.” (James 4:7-8; Eph.6:11-13)
2. By being “**firm in the faith**” describes an inner disposition unyielding like a rock
  - a. Victory is assured, not by the determination of our belief, but by the object of our belief- Christ and the gospel which defeated Satan. (John 12:31-33; Rev 12:10-11)
3. Joint Goal is “**being accomplished**” God’s children, scattered throughout the world, are facing the same suffering because of their faith in Christ. Though not without God’s purpose, and sure outcome that call us to rejoice (4:13-14).

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