

## Be Completely Humble



***“As a prisoner for the Lord, then,  
I [Paul] urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.  
Be completely humble and gentle;  
be patient, bearing with one another in love.  
Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of  
peace.”***

(Ephesians 4:1-3 NIV)

It does not come easy to be humble, and God’s word says we are to “be completely humble”. I’ve often tried to get by with just a little humility. I am certainly mature enough to give a little in a situation (when or if it doesn’t cost my pride too much -wink, wink). But that’s not the kind of humility God is seeking from us, is it. **“Be completely humble.”** Think on that for a minute.

To be completely humble. That’s a tough one, and I must admit, I was a little disappointed not to find humility listed in the fruit of the Spirit, then all I would have to do is submit to Him and humility would be easily provided. It’s not there, I looked.

Instead, we are given the example of Jesus. Philippians 2:5-8 describes the kind of humility desired of us:

***“Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. 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 nasb)

The wording here shows us that Jesus chose to humble Himself, He gave Himself for us to be our sacrifice. He set aside His rightful position as God, came to earth in human form and literally submitted Himself to the plan designed for our salvation. If Jesus can humble Himself to such a drastic extreme, why do we find it so hard to do so in the simplest things? Even when (especially when) we are right in the situation, our attitude should still be one of humility. Christ is the clear example of that, for He was completely in the right yet humbled Himself regardless.

Merriam-Webster’ Collegiate Thesaurus defines humility as:“lacking all signs of pride, aggressiveness, or self-assertiveness.” Now there’s a list. I find those attitudes wrangling in me on almost a daily basis.

The thing that struck me about Paul urging those in Ephesus (and us, in turn) to be completely humble is that the word "humble" is a response to something. In the case of Ephesians 4, walking in humility is in response to the calling we have in Christ. Because of our salvation and being in Christ, we are to follow His example and put ourselves in a place of humility in our walk with Him. The end result is that we are making **“every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”** As I see it, that means regardless of our stance being the correct one, or our way being the right way. There is much more at stake than our being right.

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Do not misread or misunderstand me, I feel the Word speaks quite clearly about standing for what is right, calling sin, sin. We are told to speak the truth, but let it be done in love, and in all humility, for it is Christ we represent. It might also be a helpful reminder to some of us that He is big enough to take care of Himself. As well as remembering, there is a large difference between addressing those who are saved versus the unsaved.

Our job is to walk in a manner worthy of our calling and that requires humility. We do that first and foremost, by placing ourselves under the headship of Christ Jesus, and then, allowing His Spirit to have our thoughts and actions throughout the day so that we remain humbly serving God.

***“To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit;”*** (1 Peter 3:8 nasb)

*Father, we live in such a fallen world, and we often contribute to that state by the way we respond to life around us. We don't respond to situations in humility, but rather even use righteous indignation as an excuse for slander and argument. You have called us to walk in humility, to speak the truth in love, to watch our attitudes and allow Your Spirit to respond through us. Forgive us Father for stepping beyond Your control. Help us to walk in a manner worthy of the calling You have placed on us as Your servants in this crazy world. May Your word be our guide, may Christ be exalted, and Your Spirit given free reign of our words, thoughts and actions today. For Your glory.*