

Humility

Philippians 2:3-4

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“Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others” (Philippians 2:3-4).

Do you want your life to be lived to its fullest capacity? Of course you do. Everybody does. In fact, you say, that's sort of a foolish question. I know it is, but since I've already asked one, let me ask another.

Do you want the things that you do to be done to the maximum of your capabilities? You do? OK, there are two things that you need in your life in order for that to happen: confidence and poise.

Both of these have to do with our inner confidence, a courage based on faith, a calmness of spirit. And the greatest fountain to produce those things in our lives is humility. Although we are proud by nature, humility is a virtue that can be learned.

Jesus said, “Take my yoke upon you and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart.” The humble person takes a good look at his God-given gifts and abilities, and then uses them for God's glory. Pride produces a tension in our lives, but humility frees us to be ourselves.

Our verse for today tells us the humble person will not selfishly compete with others. Of course not. His goal will be to glorify God, not to elevate self or put other people down. That lifestyle leads to a calmness of spirit that brings forth confidence and poise needed to function at capacity and perform to the maximum of our capabilities.

One of the great benefits of a humble spirit is that it pulls us out of ourselves. It has the positive effect of enabling us to understand and be in sympathy with the interests, ideas, and feelings of others. It can produce a self-forgetting love that gives insight into the thoughts, hopes and aspirations of those around us. Naturally we have feelings and hopes of our own, but humility gives the power to subordinate our own things to the things of others. And what a blessing that is!

I'm sure you know of people whose lives are filled with strife and vain-glory. These are two of the most destructive forces in life. A selfish spirit will ruin and demolish the spirit of Christian love.

Naturally this teaching is contrary to the spirit of the age. Intimidation and self-assertiveness are big words today. But Jesus taught us to give ourselves, not to assert ourselves. I'm convinced that He knows more about life than all the modern, man-made ideas combined.

Lowliness of mind is, in fact, the way to fullness of life, peace of heart, and joy in the daily affairs of life.

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