

Humility:



Putting self in its proper place before the glory of God

A “Christian” is a follower of Jesus Christ - the One who left the glories of Heaven to take the form of a man and become a servant to the point of going to the cross to die for the sins of mankind. *Philippians, chapter 2* describes the humility of Jesus and what it means to be His followers. As a follower of Jesus, we are to live according His teachings and His example; both of which point to living in humility. True humility seeks to bring glory and honor to God and looks to the interests of others. Humility accepts the grace of an all powerful and awesome God and also gives that grace to others - especially our spouse.

Martin Luther wrote that God created the world out of nothing, and as long as we are nothing, He can make something out of us. In our flesh, we want to be something; it is the driving desire behind much of our lives as human beings. But that desire is also what bring the most conflict into our lives as we compete with those around us to be that “something.” “Humility is not when you hang your head down and act like a nobody. True humility is when you surrender your will, your point of view to God and accept His will and his point of view.” (Dr. James Richards) Personal effort is powerless to bring humility; only dying to self and totally surrendering to God brings humility.

Humility is critical to healthy, strong marriage. Holding fiercely to the *rightness* of our views, our *rights*, our views, our judgements will only lead to disconnection and a lack of oneness. Viewing ourselves as God’s creation, people who serve a great and awesome Creator, who are meant to serve and live a life seeking to emulate Christ will lead to strong, vibrant, growing marriages. Colossians 3:12 says that we are to *clothe* ourselves in humility. We are to put it on like a coat - it means that we are *other* focused, rather than *self* focused. We are to live our life for Christ and as we do so, love others (especially our spouse) as Christ loves them. Do your words, your actions reflect a self focus or an other focus? Do you love your spouse, your children and those you come in contact with as Christ loves them and gave Himself for them? It is never too late to change!

Helpful Resources:

Fortified Marriages Resource page: www.fortifiedmarriages.com - *The Fortified Marriages Manual & Workbook* is a great resource to help you understand your spouse better.

Book to check out: *Humility; The Journey Toward Holiness* by Andrew Murray

Articles to check out:

Humility in Marriage by By Josh and Tammy Russ - www.christianfamilylife.com

Marriage Requires Humility by Francis & Lisa Chan - www.familylife.com