

HUMILITY

FINDING OUR PLACE IN GOD'S UNIVERSE



Humility, the place of entire dependence on God, is the first duty of the creature, and the root of every good quality (Andrew Murray).

OUTLINE ... (1 PETER 5:5-7 ESV)

How do we "find" where we belong ... our place in the universe? We don't really. We follow YAHWEH our Shepherd and ultimately find ourselves exactly where God would have us to be ... the place to which he has led us.

THE SHEPHERDS FOLLOW THE CHIEF SHEPHERD, 5:1-4.

THE SHEEP FOLLOW THE SHEPHERDS, 5:5A.

EVERYONE FOLLOWS IN HUMILITY, 5:5B.

- (1 Peter 5:5 ESV) Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

Therefore ... the first five verses are all about humbling ourselves before God, so now he says ... "So do it" ...

- (1 Peter 5:6-7 ESV) Humble yourselves, **therefore**, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, 7 casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

1. To find our place in God's universe we must humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God, 5:6-7.

As we humble ourselves before God and follow the chief Shepherd, we realize that we do not find our place in God's universe, but that somewhere along the path we look around and find ourselves exactly where God would have us to be ... because he brought us there.

We do not climb to the top of the mountain and find God and glory, but we bow low in the valley of humility, and YAHWEH our Shepherd exalts us at the proper time—he lifts us to the place he has prepared for us through his redeeming work at Calvary. He lifts us to a place

that is higher than our minds could ever comprehend—higher than the heavens are above the earth.

- (Isaiah 55:8-9 ESV) For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

SO HOW DO WE DO THAT?

2. We must learn to humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God in our daily lives.

A. We must first understand that our lives are in God's hands whether we submit or not.

- (Colossians 1:17 ESV) And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.
- (Hebrews 1:3a NLT) The Son radiates God's own glory and expresses the very character of God, and he sustains everything by the mighty power of his command.

B. We humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God when we submit to the work that he gives us and when we submit to the people with whom we serve and fellowship.

Obeying God in verses 1-5 is humbling ourselves under his mighty hand.

*****Andrew Murray ... It is easy to think we humble ourselves before God, but humility towards men will be the only sufficient proof that our humility before God is real.**

C. But what is humility. We need to know what humility is.

Humility is seeing ourselves as God sees us and living accordingly. Humility is living day-to-day and moment-by-moment in complete dependence on God.

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Helpful Scriptures in understanding humility.

i. When we live with an awareness of our complete dependence on God, we are able to

thoughtfully, seriously form a modest and an accurate view of ourselves in view of the stewardship of faith God has given us.

- (Romans 12:3 ESV) For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

ii. When we live with an awareness of our complete dependence on God, we have no confidence in our human abilities or skills.

- (Philippians 3:3 ESV) For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh.

iii. Humbling ourselves before God we are freed from fending for ourselves and are free to look out for the interest of others.

- (Philippians 2:3–4 ESV) Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

iv. When we live in complete dependence on God, we follow Christ's example in becoming obedient even to the point of death.

- (Philippians 2:8 ESV) And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

D. Humility is having complete, absolute reliance on and trust in God and his word.

- (Proverbs 3:5–7 ESV) Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. 6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. 7 Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil.
- (2 Corinthians 10:5 ESV) We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ.
- (Psalm 119:81 ESV) My soul longs for your salvation; I hope in your word.
- (Psalm 119:89 ESV) Forever, O LORD, your word is firmly fixed in the

heavens.

- (Psalm 119:105 ESV) Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
- (Psalm 119:114 ESV) You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in your word.
- (Psalm 119:160 ESV) The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever.

3. The blessed fruit of humility is the ability and the joy of trusting God with everything.



Living in complete dependence on God—aka humility—we learn more and more that we can trust him with everything.



Being able to cast our anxieties on God is the resultant fruit of our strong belief that God will exercise his might and power in caring for us as we trust him with our lives.

When we humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God, he lifts us to heights unimaginable.

- (1 Peter 5:6–7 ESV) Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, 7 casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

Excerpts from Andrew Murray. "Humility" ...

He simply taught us the blessed truth that there is nothing so heavenly as being the servant and helper of all. The faithful servant, who recognizes his position, finds a real pleasure in supplying the wants of the master or his guests.

When God created the universe, it was for the single purpose of making the creature a partaker of His perfection and blessedness, and through that, showing the glory of His love, wisdom, and power. God wished to reveal Himself in and through created beings by communicating to them as much of His own goodness and glory as they were capable of receiving. But this communication didn't give the creature something which it could possess in itself – a certain life or goodness, which it had under its own control. By no means. However, as God is the ever-living, ever-present, ever-acting

One who upholds all things by the word of His power, and in whom all things exist, **the relationship of the creature to God could only be one of unceasing, absolute, and universal dependence.** As God by His power once created, so by that same power God maintains every moment. The creature looks back to the origin and first beginning of existence, and acknowledges that it owes everything to God. In addition to this, the creature must accept that its main concern, its best asset, its only happiness, now and through all eternity, is to present itself an empty vessel in which God can dwell and demonstrate His power and goodness.

The life God gives is not all at once, but moment by moment, through the unceasing operation of His mighty power. **Humility, the place of entire dependence on God, is the first duty of the creature, and the root of every good quality.**

Likewise, pride, or the loss of this humility, is the root of every sin and evil. It was when the Serpent breathed the poison of his pride – the desire to be as God – into the hearts of Adam and Eve, that they fell from their high position into all the wretchedness in which mankind is now sunk. In heaven and earth, pride is the gate, the birth, and the curse of hell.

Humility is simply the sense of entire nothingness, which comes when we see how truly God is all, and in which we make way for God to be all. When the creature realizes that this is true goodness, and consents to be the vessel in which the life and glory of God are to work and exhibit themselves, he sees that humility is simply acknowledging the truth of his position as the creature, and yielding to God His rightful place.

The Need. When the old Serpent, he who had been cast out of heaven for his pride, whose whole nature was pride, spoke his words of temptation into the ear of **Eve**, these words carried with them the very poison of hell. When she listened, and yielded her desire and her will to the prospect of being as God, knowing good and evil, the poison entered into her soul, blood, and life. This destroyed forever that blessed humility and dependence upon God, which

would have been our everlasting happiness. Instead of this, her life and the life of the race that sprang from her became corrupted to its very root with the most terrible of all sins and curses – the poison of Satan's own pride.

Utter despair will prepare us to realize and accept a power and a life outside of ourselves, the humility of heaven as brought near by the Lamb of God, to cast out Satan and his pride.

What a sobering thought, that our love for God is measured by our everyday interaction with men and the love it displays. Our love for God will be found to be an illusion, except where it is proven by the test of daily life with our fellow man. It is the same with our humility. **It is easy to think we humble ourselves before God, but humility towards men will be the only sufficient proof that our humility before God is real.** It will be the only proof that humility has taken up its residence in us, and become our very nature, the only proof that we, like Christ, have made ourselves of no reputation.

Excerpts From: Andrew Murray. "Humility." Apple Books. <https://books.apple.com/us/book/humility/id1104022862>

HIGHWAY TO HEAVEN -RULES OF THE ROAD-

1. Follow the lead car .
2. Stay in your lane.
3. Yield the right-of-way.
4. Pride puts you in the ditch.

