

# Community Group Discussion Questions

“The Greatest” 1 Peter 5:5-6 April 21st

## Getting Started

C.S. Lewis said it best when he stated: “Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it is thinking of yourself less.” Therefore, in the effort to live a life of irresistible influence as winsome, how does one choose to develop a virtue that is designed to give, not gain?

Who in your life has modeled humility? What did it look like?

## Going Deeper

- I. **The Height of Humility:** “*Clothe*” (v. 5)
  - a. Incarnation: Took on Flesh (John 1:14, Philippians 2:1-9)
  - b. Demonstration: Took on Fabric (John 13:1-5)
  - c. Confrontation: Took on Fame (Mark 9:33-35)

These three ideas of incarnation, demonstration, and confrontation help us to understand humility in the three significant ways it challenges us. First, it helps us remember who we are. We are people of flesh. We often live as if we will never die, yet we are temporary and mortal in these bodies. Second, it teaches us that humility means service to others. We choose to take off the bib that says, “Feed me and take care of me” and replace it with an apron that signifies “I am here to serve you.” Finally, it removes our temptation to pursue fame, because it is impossible to be arrogant when we are on our knees washing the feet of others.

Which of these 3 aspects of humility do you most need to understand and embrace, and why?

- II. **The Honesty in Humility:** *“all of you” & “God opposes”* (v. 5)
- a. Pinnacle of Pride: Begins with Covetousness (Isaiah 14:13-14)
  - b. Peril of Pride: Belittles Contentment (Genesis 3:1-6, 1 John 2:16)
  - c. Problem of Pride: Benefits are Costly (Proverbs 3:34)

Isaiah 14 tells us that Satan’s fall began with his pride.

Genesis 3 tells us that Adam & Eve’s fall began with pride.

1 John 2 warns us against the pride of life.

Proverbs 3 warns us that God scorns the prideful.

Taking all four of these passages into consideration, we should be staggered by the implications of what our pride can do to destroy our lives.

Share with us about a time when your pride caused pain to you or someone you care about.

If you were able to humble yourself, how did you see God bring about a good resolution?

- III. **The Heart of Humility:** *“Humble yourselves” & “under the mighty hand of God”* (v. 6)
- a. Submission of the Will: Recognition of Grace (John 3:30)
  - b. Sentiment of your Worth: Redefined for Glory (Ephesians 2:10)
  - c. Spirit’s internal Work: Revelation of Godliness (Galatians 5:22-26)

John the Baptist knew his place. In talking about Jesus, John said, “He must increase, I must decrease.” What does this look like in your life? How do you make much of Jesus?

In Ephesians 2:10, the apostle Paul shares with us the amazing truth that we are God’s masterpieces, created in Christ Jesus for good works which He has prepared for us to do. So, instead of trying to make ourselves famous by how we perform in the world, how does this truth help us see our true value in God’s eyes?

When we humble ourselves, the fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23) can be on full display in our lives. Which of these do people most often see in you?

**IV. The Honor from Humility:** *“the proper time he may exalt you”* (v. 6)

- a. Patient in Waiting: “kairos” is not referencing time, but transformation.
- b. Purpose in Wording: “Humility comes before Honor”
  - i. Proverbs 15:33
  - ii. Proverbs 18:22

The bible talks of both ‘chronos’ time and ‘kairos’ time. Chronos refers to linear time, like minutes, hours, weeks, etc. Kairos refers to a unique event in which something special was to happen. It comes from a word that means ‘when things come to a head’ requiring decisive action.

As we practice the virtue of humility, it will be up to God to decide when He is going to exalt us for it. We don’t get to control the outcome, but we can trust that God will reward and exalt us at the perfect time that advances His work in the world. If we chase honor, we will rarely find it. But if we chase humility, honor will often find us in God’s perfect timing.

Share with us about a time when you saw God honor someone because of their humility. Was it obvious to everyone why they deserved that honor? Why?

**Take Away:** The pursuit of a life marked with the \*Winsome characteristic of “Humility” is a life long pursuit! Pursue Jesus, trust the work of the Holy Spirit, and witness the work of these virtues begin to be said about you:

- **Helpful**
- **Unseen**
- **Mindful**
- **Inviting**
- **Lifting**
- **Intentional**
- **Teachable**
- **Yielding**

**Prayer Requests**

Pray for the entire CBC church family to show honor and humility.