



The Warning and The Way

July 19-August 2, 2025

MAIN POINT

Humility, reasonableness, and teachability are vitally important for us to live God's way in God's world.

INTRODUCTION

Who do you know who consistently displays humility?

What are some of the benefits you have experienced from being humble?

Humility does not come naturally to most people. Rather, humility is something that we have to work for. Most of the sins we struggle with have their roots in pride. While our society awards and encourages pride and self-sufficiency, the Bible teaches us to eschew pride and embrace humility. Ultimately, Jesus was exalted because of His humble service on our behalf. In this study, we'll look to God's wisdom to learn how pride breeds punishment, while humility breeds blessing.

UNDERSTANDING

READ [PROVERBS 15:31-33](#); [18:12](#); [22:4](#); AND [28:13](#).

What's the relationship between humility and a teachable spirit?

What keeps a person from being teachable?

Why might pride lead to ruin? Why might humility lead to honor?

How do these concepts upend the way the world thinks about pride?

Read [Matthew 5:3](#). How does humility lead us to fear and revere the Lord?

Why does our pride lead us to conceal our sin rather than confess it?

When have you been tempted to conceal your sin? Why did you do it?

One who sees himself or herself as God does will look to the Lord for guidance. People who think more of themselves than they should, however, follow the path that Satan has marked out—one of pride. Humility will lead to repentance and faith, opening the door to abundant life here and eternal life in heaven. Meanwhile, pride causes a hardening of the heart that leads to poor choices, and ultimately separation from God forever.

READ [PROVERBS 13:13](#); [14:12](#); [16:18](#); AND [29:23](#).

What are the consequences of rejecting God's instruction?

Why do we foolishly believe that we know better?

What are the rewards for obeying God's commands?

What rewards have you experienced in your walk with God?

**How can humility lead us to make better choices in our daily lives?
Why does [Proverbs 29:23](#) still offer hope to the prideful?**

The Bible makes clear that walking in pride instead of humility leads to further rejection of God's commands and certain consequences. On the other hand, obeying the Lord results in blessing. As we follow God, we make the kind of choices that give Him glory. And there is hope for the prideful—as long as they have breath, they can repent and believe and find honor before the Lord.

READ [PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11](#).

For what reason did the Father exalt the Son, according to these verses?

How does this passage challenge society's definition of success?

God's exaltation of Christ is because of His death of humiliation upon the cross. Our Lord did nothing out of selfishness, nor was He disobedient at any time to His Father's will. Jesus did not seek His own glory; even in His exalted state, all of the glory belonged to His Father. In this passage, Paul lifted up Christ's self-sacrificial love for others and His obedient service to God as an example to the Philippians.

APPLICATION

What is one concrete step you can take this week to lead others to humility in your family, church, neighborhood, or community?

How can you move toward an even more teachable spirit personally?

**What can you share from these verses with someone who is far from God?
What part of your testimony might resonate with him or her?**

PRAYER

For your closing prayer time, give your group members the opportunity to voice prayers of thanksgiving and praise to God, who has made us humble and given us teachable spirits. Pray that we would share the truths from Scripture with confidence and humility. Pray that the Holy Spirit will teach us and lead us to exhibit His fruit in our lives, especially in the way we avoid pride and humbly help lead others to Christ.

COMMENTARY

PROVERBS

13:13. To have contempt for instruction is to despise the Lord's word. Such a person is always condemned (Num 15:31; 2Sam 12:9; 2Ch 36:16; cp. 1Sam 2:17). Pay the penalty is literally "pledge collateral to it," in other words, be in debt to it.

15:31-33. To be at home is literally "to spend the night." To ignore or neglect the Lord's counsel and discipline is not just harmful (13:18), it is ultimately fatal (1:25,32). To do so is to despise or reject one's very self. To acquire good sense is literally to "buy a heart" (19:8; cp. "lacks sense" at 6:32). The phrase what wisdom teaches probably means "the instruction that results in wisdom." Humility and the fear of the Lord are prerequisites for gaining wisdom and honor.

18:12. This proverb goes beyond 16:5,18 to teach that humility brings honor. This Hebrew word for "humility" implies being bowed down by affliction and then, when affliction shows that we are not self-sufficient, having a trusting relationship with God.

28:13. It is a good thing to conceal others' sins (17:9), but not one's own. To confess and renounce sins is the definition of repentance. The person who finds mercy will prosper in the ultimate sense in eternity.

PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11

These verses from Paul paint a poignant picture of the humility Christ revealed in His incarnation and His substitutionary death. Paul urged them to exchange their selfish motives for the Savior's attitude. While Christ has all cause for glorying, being God Himself, He willingly surrendered Himself for the needs of others. The Son of God did not seek His own advantage, that is, He refused to ignore others' needs. The passage states that Jesus Christ made himself nothing. The result was that the Savior set aside His glory to minister grace and mercy to those who are most undeserving of such blessings.

The phrase Have this mind among yourselves (v. 5) commands the church to value Christ's character as a model. The key thought of verse 6 is that Jesus did not consider His own interests, thus allowing them to dominate His actions. Form (v. 6) suggests His complete deity. Equality with God indicates His co-equality with God and separate personality (the second person of the Trinity). To be used for His own advantage is capable of two connotations. It can mean "to grasp" (steal), but because of Jesus' deity it probably means "to clutch" (hang on to at all costs).

The phrase translated made himself nothing (v. 7) is much debated. Theologians ponder what Jesus emptied Himself of. It is certain that He did not divest Himself of deity or its attributes. Two statements accompany the verb. First, taking the form of a slave indicates that God the Son became a servant. "Form" indicates true servanthood, as does the word "slave." Second, the likeness of men explains both emptying and servanthood. "Likeness" differs from "form." Two statements explain the second verb humbled (v. 8). First, being found in human form provides the time of His humility. "External form" contrasts with the form of God (v. 6). Jesus was more than human, though He came to earth in the form of a man. Second, Jesus' humility came through becoming obedient. Servants or slaves obey; Jesus obeyed God, even to the point of dying on a cross.

God is described as acting in verses 9-11. Again, two verbs organize the thought. First, God highly exalted him suggests that God gave Jesus a new position, although some take it as superlative ("to the highest"). Second, God bestowed on him the name. This name that is above every name is Lord. Every knee should bow and every tongue confess state one result of God's exaltation (vv. 10-11). The posture and the confession imply submissive reverence. "Every" includes spatial dimensions: heaven... earth and under the earth. Together they indicate the living and the dead (blessed and condemned). All bring glory to God. This teaches that Jesus mediates between God and humans. He is the focus of worship and the administrator of God's will on earth.