

Humility Test (Part 2)

by Bryan Gibson

Maybe, just maybe we're not as humble as we think, and perhaps the reason is that we're too proud to realize it. The previous article asked four different questions to help us test our own humility. Let's continue with a few more.

5. In my marriage, which concerns me most—what my spouse does for me, or what I do for my spouse? Do I esteem my spouse better than myself—have I become her servant? (Philippians 2:3). Have I become too busy looking out for my own interests that I've neglected my spouse's? (Philippians 2:4). I know what Christ gave up to look out for my interests (Philippians 2:5-8)—what do I give up for my spouse? And what about my brethren in Christ—am I waiting for them to do for me, or I am too busy doing for them?
6. Do I ever look with contempt or disdain on others due to their race, their less than stellar background, their lack of intelligence, poverty, ignorance, etc.? Are there people I consider "beneath me"? Job was held in high esteem, at least before he suffered so greatly, but look at the manner in which he spoke of his servants: "Did not He who made me in the womb make them? Did not the same One fashion us in the womb?" (Job 31:15). "Showing all humility to all men"—that's what the Lord teaches us to do, for this important reason: "for we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another" (Titus 3:2-3).
7. Do I ever try to impress others with my superiority over them? Do I boast of my good works, my wealth, my education, or any other accomplishment? Or, do I perhaps try to do the same through my children? Could there possibly be some smugness in my speech and behavior toward others? Bottom line, is my speech and behavior consistent with the One who described Himself as "meek and lowly" (Matthew 11:29)?
8. Do I consider any act of service beneath my dignity? Do I consider myself too important to do "less important" things? Would I wash feet, or anything comparable to that? "If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet" (John 13:14). A cup of cold water—doesn't sound like much, but hear Jesus: "And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward" (Matthew 10:42). To keep a local church functioning properly, a number of "mundane" things have to be done. Can the Lord, and my brethren, count on me?
9. Am I as eager to serve when I'm NOT seen as when I AM seen? "But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly" (Matthew 6:3-4). Which do I desire more, the honor of men, or the honor of God? (John 5:44). Quiet, humble service—the kind that receives little or no

recognition from other people—am I okay with that? And another closely related question—am I as eager to serve those who can't pay me back as those who can? “When you give a dinner...do not ask your friends, your brothers, your relatives, nor rich neighbors, lest they also invite you back, and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; for you shall be repaid at the resurrection of the just” (Luke 14:12-14).

To be continued...