Introduction

One of the qualities God wants to build into our life is humility.

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.” Philippians 2:3-4

What does humility look like?

I. A humble person is teachable. Verse 5

The word that Peter uses is submissive.

Submission means respectful and obedient.

It’s not just be respectful. Peter is encouraging them to be teachable. That is how we grow.

“Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.” Hebrews 13:7

II. A humble person has a servant heart. Verses 5-6

All of us are to “clothe ourselves with humility toward one another.”

We are to “put on humility like an apron.”

Where do you think Peter learned that?

“When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. ‘Do you understand what I have done for you?’ he asked them. 13 ‘You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. 14 Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. 15 I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. 16 I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. 17 Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.” John 13:12-17

Jesus showed us what humility looks like.
Why is this important?

“God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”

We see that taught throughout the Scriptures.

- The proud and the arrogant will be humbled. Isaiah 2:11-12
- God dwells with the contrite and lowly. Isaiah 57:15
- He is a father to the fatherless and a defender of widows. Psalm 68:5
- It is the meek who will inherit the earth. Matthew 5:5
- It is those who humble themselves who will be exalted. I Peter 5:6

III. A humble person is prayerful. Verse 7

They realize they are totally dependent upon God.

Peter instructs us to cast all of our cares upon God.

Why? Because he cares for us.

God is not indifferent to our suffering.

“Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous fall.” Psalm 55:22

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6-7

God responds to the cries of his people.

“More things have been wrought by prayer than this world dreams of.” Alfred Lord Tennyson

Conclusion

When we humble ourselves, we are teachable and God can mold us and shape us.

When we humble ourselves, we are willing to serve and God can use us.

When we humble ourselves, we look to God in prayer and he hears us.

And when we pray, God works and all the glory goes to him.