

The New Self Puts On Humility

God's Paradox: Matthew 5:3 – Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

- Proverbs 29:23 A man's pride will bring him low, but the humble in spirit will retain honor.
- Proverbs 18:12 Before destruction the heart of a man is haughty, and before honor is humility.
- Proverbs 11:2 When pride comes, then comes shame; but with the humble is wisdom.

Jesus emptied himself, humbled himself, and God highly exalted him.

Philippians 2:5-11 (ESV) ⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

In what ways might pride appear in your life?

- Hard to teach; want to appear knowledgeable; don't listen well.
- Self-willed choices; no need for counsel; quickly defensive if actions or beliefs are challenged.
- Your way is always best; impatient until you get your way.
- Selfish ambition, self-advancement – gain is the driving motive.
- Materialistic – talk most about accomplishments/possessions.
- Talk a lot about yourself; self-absorbed; better than others.
- Quick to criticize, blame, point out failure, find fault.
- Enter easily into argument and strife, need to be right.
- Don't truly forgive; instead retain bitterness, anger.
- Vanity - much concern about appearance, looks, clothes.
- Need to be admired for achievements, service, spiritual life.
- Lie and deceive, mostly to look good or avoid looking bad.
- Feel hurt when overlooked; easily offended; sorry for self.
- Won't admit weakness, need, inability; avoid help.
- Avoid shame or embarrassment at all cost; no genuine confession of sin to God or others.
- Unwilling to trust God's ways; eager to justify self.