

HUMBLING YOURSELF

Christian Character in Action Series: Lesson 3

11 March 2022

INSTRUCTIONS TO THE STRONG, MIGHTY, WISE, AND NOBLE

Psalm 25:9 Be meek, and God will teach you His way.

Romans 15:1-3 The strong ought to aim to please his neighbor and edify others as Christ did.

1 Cor 1:26-31 Don't glory in your own talents and abilities, or it will hinder you. Glory in the Lord.

Philippians 2:1-7 Don't make a reputation for yourself. In lowliness of mind, esteem others better than yourselves.

- If you make idols of the talented, they will soon become so puffed up, selfish, and sinful, that their talents will be wasted on themselves, and they'll be of no use to the Lord.
- Don't promote your church, your doctrines, and your brethren as being "the best there is." That also will be the beginning of a great downfall. Humility is the key to success in God's work.
- Don't be too picky about what you expect from a church or its leadership. Don't be "*so good*" that you're useless. Don't be "*so right*" that you are not a blessing to anyone.

Rom 15:1 **We then that are strong...** you know the bible, you have right doctrine, you witness and serve the Lord, you can spot error and false doctrine. You're strong in those things.

Ought to bear the infirmities of the weak. The strong should not condemn or avoid the weak. They are to bear them and help them become stronger.

And not to please ourselves. That is one definition of pride. Avoiding things that don't please us, and only doing the things that do please us. If we're going to minister to others, we'll need to get out of our comfort zone and spend some time with people who need help.

- We give to the church and to missionaries, though it would be more pleasing to keep the money for ourselves.
- We spend time and lose rest so we can go outside and witness to the lost.
 - We do these things because the eternal comfort of others is more important than our own temporary comfort or conveniences.
 - We do the things we do, not for ourselves, but for Jesus Christ.

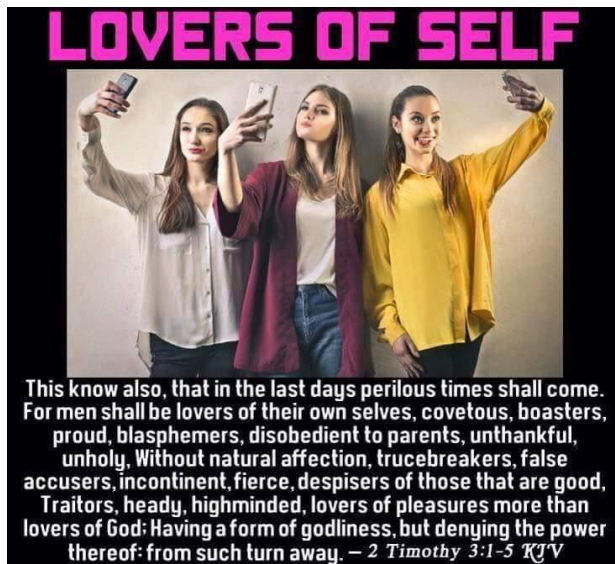
Rom 15:2 We are all instructed to please and edify our neighbor. The things that we do are for the good of others, not for our own good. If you only do things that give you immediate satisfaction or blessings, then you are missing the mark. We're to serve, expecting nothing in return.

Rom 15:3 “For even Christ...” We may be stronger than somebody we know (vs 1), but nobody is stronger than Jesus Christ. The stronger is not to demand that the weaker serve him/her. For even Christ didn’t do that.

Even Christ bore the punishments that should have been ours. He didn’t enjoy it, He endured it (Heb 12:2). Even today, He’s still cleaning our spots and ironing out our wrinkles (Eph 5:25-27), not because He enjoys it, but for our good.

Php 2:3 The instruction is that we are to be lowly in our minds. Regardless of our skills, wealth, status, appearance, as Christians, we are to esteem (regard) and treat others as better than ourselves.

- Lucifer did not do this. He had many advantages over others, but his concern was for himself: “*What’s in this for me?*” That is the pride that caused his downfall.
- It will not help your situations and relationships to prove that you are better than others. Do you want to be right, or do you want to be happy?
- If you are superior to others in some way, don’t waste it by putting others down and criticizing them for not being as good as you are. Lift them up and encourage them.
- **Php 2:6-7** What did Jesus do? He was equal to God but made himself of no reputation. He served others.



- Aim to make yourselves of no reputation.
- Let your talents, skills, and attributes be used for the benefit of others, expecting no recognition or reward.
- People will resent you if you boast of your talents, knowledge, or abilities. They won’t listen to you. You’ll be of no use as a minister.
- Even if you ARE better than others, treat others *as though they* are better than you. You’ll get good results.
- God is angry with people who say, “I am holier than thou” (Isa 65:5).

1 Cor 1:26-31 God doesn’t use a person just because there’s something special about them. He uses the one who honors Him while they serve Him. The “*nobody*” who looks to God for results and doesn’t trust in himself is the one who pleases God.

It is The Lord Jesus Christ’s wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption that we ought to be glorying in. If we have any of those attributes, they came from the Lord.

Keep a guard on the pride that makes us think we’re something special compared to others.
