

A walk with Mr O (56)

Him and them!

Mr O, since we talked together about pride I've been thinking about humility. The Bible has a lot to say about it, doesn't it? I think I know what it is, but I'm not at all sure how to get it.

So, what is it?

As far as I can see, the Bible uses the word 'humble' in a number of ways.

Yes that's true, So, go on.

Sometimes 'humble' just means being poor or troubled. At other times it means being ashamed or embarrassed. But most often it seem to be used as the opposite of 'proud'. And this I know for certain- humility is a quality which really please the Lord.

Very good. You've obviously been doing your homework.

So, how do I get it?

Only by forgetting.

Forgetting what?

Two things. First of all, forget the noun 'humility' and think only of the adjective 'humble'. Humility is not an 'it' that you have to search for It is something that you become. It describes the sort of person you are. Think 'humble', but not 'humility' .

And what's the second thing to forget?

Forget yourself. instead, think about the Lord Jesus Christ. think about him as much as you can throughout the day. Take time out to with him – not the Jesus of your imagination, but the Jesus who is spoken of everywhere in the Scriptures. Fix your eyes on him, never let him out of your sight.

As I try to do this, are there any passages of Scriptures on which I should particularly focus?

Philippians 2;5-11 is key. Why not learn it by heart? The eternal Son of God humbled himself. He threw rank and reputation to the wind. He became a creature, and then

the servant of creatures. He obeyed his Father by allowing his creatures to kill him. He did this to save us. His mind was filled with God and others – and that is the mind that we have now got to have.

It's wonderful, Mr O. So, being humble is living a life of service.

No, not exactly. The humble mind doesn't go through life saying to itself, 'Service! , Service!' We must never pursue an 'it' The Biblically humble mind constantly repeats, 'Him - and them! Him – and them it doesn't focus on a role, or a task or a place. it is taken up with A Person and with persons. Everything which flows from that mind then Person/ persons' flavour.

To sum up, then, being humble loving the Lord with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength, and loving my neighbour' as myself.

Yes. This means, of course, Yes. this means, of course that none of us is yet properly humble. And that is sinful. How glad we are, then for the, message of the gospel! the Saviour humbly went to the cross to atone for our lack of humility. He died for our sins and rose for our justification. What good news this is for sinners who have no merits at all! A humble Saviour has rescued us! Being humble is something wonderful.

But that's not what the world thinks, is it?

An Ancient culture, like the Greek and Roman empires, openly despised humility. As far as they were concerned, humble people were weak people. The gospel changed all that. Cultures that have been touched by biblical Christianity generally admired humility, even though most people in those cultures don't choose to live that way. faithful churches to live that way. Faithful churches, of course. always seek to cultivate it.

What would a church look like where everyone was humble?

The Lord Jesus Christ would be the centre of everything, In addition, everyone in the church .would be thinking about everyone in the church. All that would matter would be pleasing the Lord and seeking the welfare of others. What unity of purpose there would be! And what fellowship! And no one would be competing with anyone else, So, there would be no jealousy and no boasting, What Joy!

It Would be Heaven on earth!

Yes, it would: for the way to heaven, and to everything heavenly, is not up but down.