

# Humility

Genesis 11:1-9



The Tower of Babel was built, not to celebrate a deity, but to celebrate the accomplishments of mankind. It was built out of pride. The Lord wanted humility. The people wanted pride.

**Humility** : a prominent Christian grace; a state of mind well pleasing to God; it preserves the soul in tranquility and makes us patient under trials; dismissive of one's abilities

It is the same root as the word human, who was, as we know Scripturally, made from the dust of the earth (Genesis 2:7). It easily correlates to the usage of the phrase about someone humble that he or she is referred to as "down to earth." Quite the opposite of being lofty & existing above people's heads or on a social scaffolding.

Christ has set us an example of humility. It is a "great paradox in Christianity that it makes humility the avenue to glory."

## SCAFFOLDING

**Is intended to be a source of strength beneficial to both the building & the builder.**

"Humility is not denying your strengths; it's being honest about your weaknesses." -Rick Warren  
We can tend to use our scaffolding of pride to benefit only ourselves.

**Is supposed to be temporary until the project is complete.**

We can tend to use our scaffolding of pride long term with little or no intention of returning to the level of the rest of humanity around us.

**Is never meant to be the focal point, but rather the structure beneath or behind the scaffolding is.**

"Humility is not thinking less of yourself. Humility is thinking of yourself less." -Ken Blanchard

A permanent scaffolding of pride in someone's life means that they are never through stacking story of accomplishment on top of story of accomplishment. They are constantly building something on top of what they've already done. The scaffolding indicates that they're not finished building their ego. It's alright to be remembered, but live God louder than yourself. What scaffoldings need to be brought down in your life today?

## HUMILITY

**Humility is essential because the graciousness of God is behind all our work and witness.**

We are called not because of our greatness but because God is gracious. 1 Timothy 1:12

**Humility is essential because our gifts are limited.** Not one of us has all of the gifts necessary to make the church or the world perfect. We are part of a larger whole. Paul states it this way: "There are difference kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men" (1 Corinthians 12:4-6).

**Humility is essential because individual effectiveness is limited.** Leaders have areas of effectiveness, but no one can draw everyone to the gospel. What appeals to one person may be received indifferently by another. Because we are limited, we must depend on God as he ministers through his body with all its members.

**Humility is essential because our knowledge is limited.** "We know in part and we prophesy in part" (1 Corinthians 13:9). While we do "see," ours is a diminished view. However much we may study and inquire, probe and think, we all know far too little to boast.

**Humility is essential because our time to live and serve is limited.** Our days are numbered. Despite the greatness of our work - none greater than the service of God - the time must come when we will be forced to let it all go and die. One day we will move beyond talking about death and actually die. That reality serves to humble even the most exalted among us.