

I. EMBRACING MEEKNESS - THE PREMIER NEED FOR THE CHURCH

- A. Meekness is the main attribute that God is looking for in His human companions. Jesus' whole life was ordered around this attribute. He loved walking in it (*Ps 45:4-7*) and it most qualified Him for future glory. (*Phil 2:8-10*) From the moment Jesus was born, the Father contemplated His own humility. Anyone who truly looks at Jesus and His meekness will be left staring at a great mystery as He is so strong, and is the One who stoops down so low to rescue us.

Mt 11:29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart,

- B. Those who walk in meekness cannot be bought or swayed by things on the earth. They are restful on the inside as they already have more than the earth could give. A life without meekness is not a resting place for God and yet when we walk in meekness we are at rest in this life.

Is 66:1-2 Thus says the LORD: "Heaven is My throne, and earth is My footstool...where is the place of My rest? 2...On this one will I look (forever God is attracted to meekness): on him who is poor (poor in spirit) and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word."

Mt 5:5 Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth

Ja 4:1-2 "Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires from pleasure that war in your members? You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war."

II. VISION TO PURSUE MEEKNESS- REST, CONTENTMENT AND FULFILMENT

- A. Many desire to have many things within the economy of God's Kingdom that are right and good but these don't open the door into the fullness of God like meekness. Meekness is both the most supernatural of God's gifts to humanity, and one of the most resisted. It is contrary to naturally as it violates our sense of justice or our sense of right and wrong.

Mt 11:28-30 "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart [meek, humble], and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

1. **Rest:** The Lord promises to give us freedom and joy, a happy spirit with contentment.
2. **Learn from Me:** The most significant issue in being a disciple of Jesus is to learn meekness from Him. We are to regularly ask Him to teach us about it—to give us *insight* into the specifics of walking it out and then to release *inspiration* to embrace it with joy.
3. **Heavy laden:** Its many expressions include *emotional pain* (mistreated or overlooked), the *weariness of striving* with others instead of serving them, and *anxiety with fear*.
4. **Easy yoke and light burden:** The ability to enjoy our fellowship with God and to receive grace to obey Him even when outward circumstances are not easy or light.

- B. We are by nature proud which requires God's help to walk in meekness. Most pride is unperceived; it is not obvious to us. We are socially sophisticated enough to avoid blatant arrogance and to politely honor social etiquette and protocols. The enemy tempts us with pride that subtly hides in our attitudes, related to our knowledge and dedication. But it can also be related to our gifting, anointing, appearance, resources, and position of influence.

III. EVIDENCES OF MEEKNESS

- A. **Teachable spirit**—Being eager to learn from others and easy to correct. Humility is quick to hear or to be taught and is slow to speak or to correct and instruct others (**Jam. 1:19**). Pride seeks to quickly speak or teach others instead of being quick to be taught (or to hear).

Ja 1:19 Let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath [anger]...

1 Cor 3:18 Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise...let him become a fool [one who sees their great need to learn] that he may become wise.

- B. **See personal faults**—Humility is quick to take responsibility for personal faults. Pride does not see personal faults but is defensive instead of being quick to acknowledge its errors.

Phil 3:12 Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.

- C. **Grateful spirit**—Humility sees we are getting a better deal than we deserve (if all the information was considered). Pride complains much and feels mistreated with a bitter spirit.

- D. **Sees the value of others**—Humility has a deep awareness of others. Everyone has an important story that involves their joy, pain, lack, gifts, and agenda. Pride is self-absorbed and distracted with much emotional traffic in seeking to manage many of our negative emotions.

- E. **Kind with faults**—Humility is kind and patient with the faults of others. It is not easily insulted, offended, or angered. Pride is quickly exasperated with the faults of others and easily offended and insulted. The measure of my anger is the measure of my unperceived pride.

- F. **Does good in secret**- it first seeks approval and recognition from God instead of from people (**Mt. 6:1-6, 16-18**). We naturally draw attention to how devoted, smart, diligent, anointed, and generous we are (with money and time).

- G. **Seeks the benefit of others**—Humility uses its position of influence to benefit others instead of treating others roughly or bullying and intimidating them.

Phil 2:5 In lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. ⁴Let each of you look out...for the interests of others. ⁵Let this mind be in you which was in Christ...