

"And all of you, clothe yourself with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble." 1 Peter 5:5

There's an old illustration of a church awarding a "most humble" badge to one of its members, then taking it back because he put it on. This story is humorous, but it makes an important point. What we try to pass off as humility could actually be our pride in disguise. As C.H. Lewis said, "If you believe you're free from deceit, then you truly are conceited". So how do we live with humility towards other believers? I think first, we must be humble with God. *"Therefore, humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time"* (v6). That doesn't mean we are stuck under God's thumb. It's a matter of honoring the Lord's authority over our lives and trusting Him with every situation. So, when we find ourselves in a humbling situation, we allow God to humble us. That means setting aside our pride and releasing control of our day-to-day lives.

And the result? *"God gives us the grace needed to be humble"* You see, we can't truly humble ourselves with each other until we humble ourselves with God. So, yield to His Spirit living in us and be clothed with humility because that's the natural character of our Savior, Jesus.

If you're in a situation that is triggering your pride reflex, please allow yourself to be humbled-not so you will be exalted but because that's what God tells us to do. Resist the temptation to elevate yourself and seek recognition. Confess to God and give Him control. Remember, trying to *appear* humble is just pride in disguise. Living with humility day-after-day is the result of depending on God's grace every waking moment.

Lord Jesus, I want to step out of the way so that Your light can shine through. Teach me to walk humbly with you and to see the people around me through your eyes of grace and love. I pray in Your name, Amen.

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