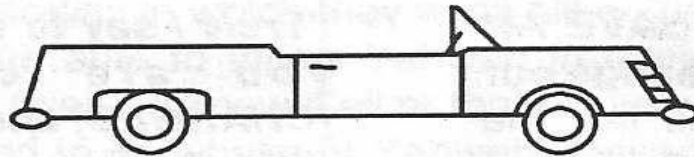


ESSENTIAL HUMILITY



Are you a convertible believer?

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ESSENTIAL HUMILITY

Yahshua the Messiah pointed out many keys to Yahweh's kingdom. He stressed a certain kind of humility as one essential key-humility like a little child.

Meeting that same requirement is also essential for success as a servant of any kind in your family or in your congregation.

THE LITTLE CHILD

Along with **love for one another, the humility of a little child** is an important foundation principle of our faith.

The vivid and startling truth is that each of us must HAVE AN ONGOING project to **change our personality** to make it like the personality of a little child. Just like the top goes down on a convertible, we have to let our pride and any arrogance go down and we have to be changed and **converted** into humble individuals. Are you a convertible believer?

How humble do we need to become? Like a sweet, obedient, little child. That is a giant step for most believers-not a baby step!

What makes **HUMILITY** to be of special interest to EACH ONE OF US, is that Yahshua said that if we do not have it, we will **NEVER** enter Yahweh's Kingdom! Is that important to you?

This seems unexpected, and even amazing.

Each child of Yahweh is intended to be a leader in Yahweh's Kingdom-Kings and priests.

What a requirement to impose for leaders-that they must be humble like little children!

Mat 18:1 At the same time came the disciples unto Yahshua, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? And Yahshua called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, And said, "**Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, [CHANGED] and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.**"

We are not intended to make it into the Kingdom on our natural humility that we were born with or that we may have had as a little child. We are supposed to be **working on changing** from the proud way we have become as adults, to the **HUMBLE ATTITUDE OF A LITTLE CHILD** that Yahushua tells us we must become.

Colossians 3:12-13 Put on therefore, as the elect of Elohim, holy and beloved, tender mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as the Master forgave you, so also *do* ye.

HUMILITY IN HISTORY

Humility has been a key to many epic, historical, life-changing events. Some positive and some negative. Three examples com from the time of the Exodus from Egypt.

HUMILITY was a major factor in the destruction of the great Egyptian culture and society at that first Passover in Egypt. Were we are taking about the humility that Pharaoh refused to show before Yahweh

Exodus 10:3 And Moses and Aaron came in unto Pharaoh, and said unto him, Thus saith Yahweh Elohim of the Hebrews, How long wilt thou refuse to **HUMBLE THYSELF** before me? let my people go, that they may serve me.

Yahweh still likes to see his people come out and serve Him.

While the lack of **HUMILITY** in Pharaoh brought about the destruction of Egypt, the great humility of Moses was an important factor in his success as a leader, prophet, and servant of Yahweh:

Num 12:3 Now the man Moses *was* very meek, above all the men which *were* upon the face of the earth.

Yahushua was the prophet like Moses (Deuteronomy 18:18). This is another way in which they were alike-their humility.

Moses was able to follow Yahweh in everything because he didn't usually think he knew it all or that his way was always better. He just wanted to do whatever Yahweh desired and he wanted to help the chosen people He was able to encourage the Israelites because he loved them and was one of them.

Lack of HUMILITY caused the children of Israel to spend an extra 40 years in the wilderness. That was a lesson for all of us to remember. At the end of their 40 years Moses told them this:

Deuteronomy 8:2 And thou shalt remember all the way which Yahweh thy Elohim led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to **HUMBLE YOU**,

What Yahweh was looking for in Israel was courage, faith, and fearlessness (not what we may usually think of as humility), but they just did not have it. Would 40 years of wandering around on a diet of manna help with your humility?

Paul presents a picture of a believer dressing himself in these essential garments as he or she talks with the Father to begin each day. Yahweh will hear and support those who seek humility.

This is an ongoing project for each believer!

What is Humility?

HUMILITY is the opposite of pride.

Humility is not saying that you are less than or worse than you are. That would really be lying.

Humility is the opposite of being presumptuous.

A humble person certainly does not need to keep talking about how bad he is. He just does not boast or brag or talk about how good he is.

Just **pretending** to be humble will not meet the requirement. Yahweh, of course, cannot be fooled.

Philippians 2:3 *Let nothing be done through strife or vain boasting; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.*

Strife: Angry or bitter disagreement.

Vain Boasting: Excessive pride in oneself or one's achievements or excessive vanity.

Esteem: A judgment that happens in your mind.

We don't base our actions on **strife** or **vainglory**.

Part of being humble is certainly being submissive to the will of our Father Yahweh.

Habakkuk 2:4 is quoted in the New Testament because it links salvation to faith:

Habakkuk 2:4 Behold, his soul *which* is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.

Notice the first part of the verse. The prophet is contrasting pride to faith. But also, he is contrasting pride to life, which is salvation. Yahushua did exactly that in **Matthew 18!**

Do I often talk about myself? Do I talk but not listen? An important characteristic of a humble person is that he is quiet. He speaks less than his share of the time. When he asks a question he allows the person time to answer it fully. He does not answer for someone else before they can open their mouth. He does not interrupt.

If I get to feeling pretty good about myself, Paul give me a sure-fire way to bring myself down to earth.

2 Corinthians 10:12 For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.

They do not understand some important things about themselves.

Proverbs 26:12 Seest thou a man wise in his own conceit? *there is* more hope of a fool than of him.

What Does Yahweh say?

Isaiah 55:8-9 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith Yahweh. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

We don't even think the same way as Yahweh, and his thoughts are much higher than ours. Humility is definitely in order for us as compared to Him.

Who IS High and Mighty and what do the rest of us need to do about that?

Isaiah 57:15 For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name *is* holy; **I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also *that is* of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.**

Humility is truly BASIC to our future as Yahweh's children. By 'basic' we mean that it is essential and also that it must be a part of our core being. Humility has to be as much a part of our nature as faith, hope, or love. It has to be firmly imbedded deep in our heart and mind-part of our nature.

Yahushua's Humility

Yahushua's example was recorded for our instruction.

Torah commands us to correct our brother when we see that he is sinning.

Leviticus 19:17 Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart: thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbour, and not suffer sin upon him.

Yahushua obeyed this command. That is difficult to do, but Yahushua's humility gave Him a way of bringing sin to someone's attention without being too direct so as to hurt the person or cause him to reject the message.

We can learn to do this too if we have humility and love. Watch for this as you read the evangelists. Strive to imitate the Messiah.

Yahushua's humility is very clear in the garden prayer where He says, "**Not my will but Your will be done.**" (Luke 22:42)

Yahushua also showed his submission to the Father by telling people, "**I have been sent...**" rather than standing on his own authority. He only wanted to be known as the Father's agent.

John 5:30 I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judg-

ment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.

John 6:38-40 For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Did he think others were better than him? In one sense He did not. A Humble person does not lie by saying he's not good. Yahushua certainly understood that He was a powerful person through the power from the Father. And He surely understood that He had wisdom and real brilliance through the Holy Spirit of the Father.

But Yahushua did esteem you to be more valuable than His own life. He was very willing to painfully sacrifice His life so that you can live.

We have seen Yahushua's example of humility. Now we'll look at His teachings about humility.

Above, we looked at **Matthew 18:1-4** where Yahushua brought the example of a little child to the disciples. His teaching was, **"Unless you are converted [CHANGED] and become as little children, you shall not enter into the kingdom."**

He taught another lesson at Passover time:

John 13:12-15 So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, **Know ye what I have done to you? Ye call me Teacher and Master: and ye say well; for so I am. If I then, your Master and Teacher, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.**

That is a very clear teaching about our humility in the congregation. And, make no mistake, this goes much farther than foot-washing once a year. It must become a part of a believer's humble attitude every day.

Then, a little later that evening He taught:

John 13:34-35 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

Yahushua waited until His last night on earth to give the command. In that way they had the full example of all Yahushua's time with them. When He said, "Love the way I have loved you," they were able to understand exactly what He meant. We can gain that under-

standing by reading the accounts in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. I encourage you to spend some time learning about Yahushua from these books at least once every week. Observe how humility is a large part of love.

Only the path of humility and righteousness that Yahushua followed leads to where Yahushua is now, by His Father's side

Humility for Believers

> We are to be humble as a little child. The child Yahushua is talking about is an ideal child; well taught to be quiet and obedient, helpful, friendly, open and loving.

> We must **decide** to be humble. Coming to it **by decision** will assure that our heart is really in the project. Each of us must consider the question and decide if we **want to** become humble.

> We must follow Yahushua in His example of humility and act on His teachings about it.

I wish someone had told me the great value of humility for a person who embraces it. (They probably tried but I wasn't ready to accept it.)

In humility, Yahweh has given us a great key to success and effectiveness in business, personal relations, our relationship with Yahweh, and in our congregation both as members and as leaders.

There are several really good reasons for each of us to work on overcoming pride and learning to be more HUMBLE.

HUMILITY is VERY IMPORTANT and even **ESSENTIAL** for us as individuals and as a congregation, together with loving one another.

This is very much a salvation issue and I hope this message is something you can remember, review, and use to help you reach Yahweh's wonderful Kingdom.

Yahweh is calling you to be in His Kingdom and He really wants you to be there. If you ask Him then He will surely help you.

2 Chronicles 7:14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

Ask Yahweh to help you to be converted into the humble child He wants you to be. May Yahweh bless you with a deep understanding of this essential topic and grant you a heart of love and a purposeful dedication to a spirit of humble service.