

Text: I Peter 5:5b-11

Title: Essential Humility

### CLOTHE YOURSELVES WITH HUMILITY

Sometimes I wonder how on earth do we live out the Christian life in our day and time! How do we live in response to God's love to us in Jesus Christ? The I Peter passage gives guidance that I think helps a lot. It seems natural and fitting.

- ***Clothe yourselves with humility [towards NIV] in your dealings with one another***
- Humble—define, illustrate
- It opens us to the lives of others...and this is pretty amazing

### HUMILITY IS LOADED WITH POSSIBILITY

- Imagine the possibilities
- It connects us, an interface, enriches conversations, enriches life
  - Kindred spirits, soul friends, new territory for old relationship
- Perhaps double redemption, renewal—listener and the listened to
- Such a life has the blessing of God
  - ***“God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.” 5b NIV***
- Sum up—clothe yourselves with humility

### SAME APPROACH TO GOD

- Vs 6 calls for the same approach to God—***Humble yourselves under God's mighty hand that he may lift you up in due time***
- Review how God's mighty hand has saved and led them in the past. Deut. 5:15
- Example of Sabbath as humbling oneself
  - Leviticus 16:31 It is a Sabbath of complete rest to you, and you shall humble yourselves; it is a statute forever.
  - “If you sin against your soul, it is always at great cost. Work can be an attractive way of sinning deeply against the wildness and creativity of your own soul.”— John O'Donohue, Anam Cara, from Good Reads
- To humble ourselves opens us to God's way—opens us to the wonder and mystery of God with us. Two men went up to pray... Luke 18:10-14

### TO HUMBLE OURSELVES LEADS TO TRUSTING GOD'S WAYS

- v.7 ***Cast all your anxiety on him for he cares for you***
  - Since we do not need to be independent, self-sufficient person—we can lean on God, and be honest that things overwhelm
    - Last time seen with out stress—ultrasound picture
- v.8 ***Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour.***
  - It takes discipline when other options are vying for our attention, our time, our lives—such ways are likely far away from the humble way that

is open to the honest truth about ourselves and one another that provides for true and genuine connection

- I suppose there are many ways to interpret this line, and indeed there are many ways to interpret what Scripture means by “the devil.” With regard to this particular text, it helps to note that perhaps the greatest form of violence the devil can render is to separate people from one another...

Feasting on the Word

- Keep focused on God’s ways
- Don’t give into any other way—Go with God’s way; trust God’s way

#### DEATH AND RESURRECTION

- Though the christological pattern of crucifixion/resurrection that 1 Peter uses in chapters 3 and 4 is no longer explicit, the implicit story behind these exhortations is still the story of suffering, death, and resurrection/ascension.
- Humble yourself therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you. (5:6) After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace ... will ... restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. (5:10) *Feasting on the Word*
- Its dying to the self and rising to new life
- Restore, Support, Strengthen, Establish
- Note Philippians 2:1-9

#### OUR FAITH

- Faith allows us to be wonderfully human, honest, to connect with one another at the truest human level
- And allows us to connect with the holy God in the messiness of human life
- This is the message of the church—that God entered into the messiness of the world, into the messiness of human life in Jesus Christ—not that we may pretend to have it all together, but that we may truly connect with God and one another. Amen

#### NOTES:

Word Origin & History, humble

mid-13c., from O.Fr. humble, earlier humele, from L. humilis "lowly, humble," **lit. "on the ground," from humus "earth."** Senses of "not self-asserting" and "of low birth or rank" were both in M.E. The verb is late 14c. in the intransitive sense of "to render oneself humble;" late 15c. in the transitive sense of "to lower (someone) in dignity."