



# LOVE PEOPLE

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# HUMILITY

## **Spiritual Outcome Defined:**

Lives humbly and confidently toward others in their relationships and organizations.

## **Spiritual Outcome Described:**

Many of our relationships—maybe most—happen in the context of some form of organization: family, workplace, school, church, and more. We don't just bump into people on the streets. We are parents, teachers, bosses, co-workers, and employees. Such realities cannot be ignored when it comes to loving people. Even more, these points of connection expose a central disposition essential to pleasant relationships. Scripture teaches that *"God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble"* (James 4:6).

Arrogance is lethal. As we relate to each other in our countless roles and responsibilities, one of the more loving things we can do is become

the type of people who are easy to work with, partner with, and relate to. These are those who listen before they speak, are willing to receive input and instruction, and who have the confidence and conviction to speak up and speak out when situations need their influence.

*"We'd like to be humble – but what if no one notices?"*  
-- John Ortberg

Humility is a disposition essential to both the leader and the follower and is nothing close to insecurity or in assertiveness. A person is humble when they know who they are and who they are not, which gives us a clue as to why Scripture puts such a premium on humility. The authentically humble are those who know who is God and who isn't. The arrogant and controlling leader is offensive not just because that person is difficult to work with, but because that person is attempting to be something he or she is not. The arrogantly abrasive follower is equally offensive and for much the same reasons. Whether leader or follower, we are not in control, so why be controlling? We do not know all, so why act as if we do?

The arrogant are anxious—and ironically insecure—because they instinctively know they are not what they are attempting to be. The humble experience peace, because they can be themselves. They let God be God, and relate to others genuinely instead of with pretense. When we do this, not only will we ourselves experience growing internal peace, but we will find that as we move in and out of our various roles—spouse, employer, mother, father, co-worker, friend, child—we add value to the relationships rather than frustrate them. The humble work and partner well together, regardless of their respective roles, being able to be who they are rather than pretend to be who they are not.

### **Evidence of this Spiritual Outcome in a Person's Life:**

- In a leadership role (e.g., boss, parent, mentor) within the past month, willingly and joyfully embraced a follower's idea and openly gave credit where credit was due.
- In a follower role (e.g., employee, student, volunteer) within the past month, willingly and joyfully embraced a leader's idea even though it differed from one's personal preference.
- In the past week, has actively sought the opinions and input of others, out of genuine desire for their insight.
- Is able to maintain confidence when others disagree without becoming arrogant or insecure.

### **Guidance**

Read each passage multiple times. Then write your observations about the passage and any thoughts you have from the discernment question. What do you notice in the passage, and what does this reveal about your life?

### **2 Chronicles 33:10-13**

Observations:

Discernment Question: Consider your prayer life. Do you pray in a manner that is a calling out to God? How are your prayers driven by genuine humility? Or, how are they not driven by genuine humility?



**Psalm 10:4, 25:8-9, 147:6**

Observations:

Discernment Question: How well do you relate to authority figures in your life? How well do you relate to God as the ultimate authority figure?

**Proverbs 11:2, 13:10, 16:18, 29:23**

Observations:

Discernment Question: How does your current life display arrogance? How does your current life display humility?



## **Luke 14:7-11**

Observations:

Discernment Question: Are you self-promoting in either practice or heart? How or how not?

## **Luke 18:9-14**

Observations:

Discernment Question: Do you compare your sin to other people's sin? Do you rank yourself? How well do you see the destructiveness of your own sin and harm you have done to others? How well have you experienced God's grace toward this sin?



### **Ephesians 4:1-3**

Observations:

Discernment Question: Are you patient with others? Are you gentle with others? Are you patient and gentle with those who struggle, with the weak, with those who offend you?

### **Ephesians 5:21-33**

Observations:

Discernment Question: How have you recently displayed humility or arrogance toward family members?



## **Philippians 2:1-11**

Observations:

Discernment Question: How are you displaying humility—as Christ did—in any positions of authority you have? How have you done this in the past?

## **Hebrews 13:17**

Observations:

Discernment Question: How are you displaying humility in any relationships where you are under authority? How have you done this in the past?



## 1 Peter 5:1-6

Observations:

Discernment Question: What kind of example are you to those you lead? Does your leadership inspire others to want to be like you in character? Why or why not?

### Next Steps

What are practical next steps you will do from what you have discovered in this survey of Scripture on humility? Include insights offered from others in your Life Group that could be applied in your own life as well.



### Scripture Memory:

Philippians 2:3-4 NIV

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

James 4:6 NIV

But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble."

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