

Love as Humility (I Corinthians 13:46)

“...it does not boast, it is not proud”

1. The Humility Test:

Humility in the abstract matters little; it's how humbly we act in normal, everyday circumstances that determines whether we build up or tear down those we love. It's worth considering how we would handle some true-to-life situations where we have a choice to act with pride or humility.

1. If someone else tells a story about something he achieved or acquired, I usually...

- a. Interrupt to top his story with an even more impressive story about myself
- b. Say nothing but let my body language convey that I don't think much of the story
- c. Show interest and ask questions

2. At work, when higher-ups are around, I usually...

- a. Try to make myself look good, even if it means taking credit for other's accomplishments
- b. Mention my own work for the company, when given an opening
- c. Point out the contributions of others, while letting my own actions speak for themselves

3. When a family member or close friend has achieved something in an area where I like to excel myself, I usually...

- a. Find fault with her accomplishment and then try to turn the attention to myself
- b. Ignore her achievement
- c. Congratulate her and make sure others learn of what she has done

4. If someone I dislike fails at something, I usually...

- a. Consider how his failing might benefit me
- b. Casually mention the incident to someone else
- c. Look for an opportunity to affirm him

5. When I become aware of a weakness of failing in myself, I usually...

- a. Think about who might have contributed to the weakness
- b. Try not to think about it at all
- c. Take steps to correct that weakness in the future

2. Humility Defined:

- “not anxious to display superior gifts”
- “true humility means putting aside your own concerns and imagining what it would be like to be in the other person’s place.”
- “a peacefulness of heart that allows you to stand aside in order to affirm the value of someone else.”
- “Humility is to have an honest view of self.”

3. Pride and Humility - the contrast (Daniel 5)

A. Pride’s Manifestation (vv.1-4)

B. Pride’s Confrontation (vv.5-28)

- the hand vv.5, 6
- the humility v.17
- the message vv.18-23 (What is the message?)
- the interpretation vv.25-28

C. Pride’s Destruction vv.29,30

- extinction - Proverbs 16:18
- elevation - James 4:10