

REAL AND FALSE HUMILITY

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Peter said that Jesus is our example: *“For even hereunto were you called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow his steps”* (1 Peter 2:21). Our Lord humbled Himself in the process of coming here to make our salvation possible (John 1:14; Philippians 2:5-11). The humility of our Lord was real and actual. He is God and yet He suffered and died for us, things that He did not have to do. We would do well to imitate His humility.

There are a number of effective roadblocks to the practice of humility, some of them quite subtle. One of the most effective is the roadblock of self-importance. We would perhaps like to be humble, but we cannot do it, for after all, we are just too smart, too rich, or maybe too “spiritual” to do so. *Yes I am being sarcastic.* Intelligence and material prosperity should make us humble, but they do so infrequently. And folks who lord their own perceived spirituality over others are the biggest victims of self-deception. Real spirituality is equal to living in obedience to God (Hebrews 5:8-9).

There is a built-in problem associated with a lack of humility. Young people who know so much more than older folks will at the least repeat the mistakes, which they have been warned. Christians who think they see the religion of the Bible in a way no one else has ever seen it are doomed to apostasy. And then there are the experts on raising kids who don’t have any (It is never safe to say what your teenagers will or will not do until he or she is 20!). Real Christian humility will save us from tragedies great and small.

It must be mentioned that Paul warned us about those who would try to deceive others by manifesting a voluntary or false humility (Colossians 2:18). The context here makes it clear that a fake humility is under consideration (the person is “vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind”). Nothing is more off-putting than the person who parades his “humility” about as if it were a badge of special status amongst Christendom. Some folks I know are in danger of having their puffed-up heads explode. Only thing worse is to fall for some ploy manifested by these swelled heads. Beware false humility. Embrace the real humility, which is learned by following the lead of Jesus Christ.

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