

Own Up #12

The Responsibility to be Humble

Word

Scripture Reference

1 Peter 5:5-14

Discussion Questions

1. How can you tell if a person is genuinely humble or just faking it?
2. The Apostle Peter encourages Christians to own up their personal responsibilities when it comes to their inheritance, their new life, their being chosen, and being a witness to the world. Furthermore, their responsibility to submit, toward one's family, to be prepared, to live for God's glory, to suffer for Christ's sake, and to care. He then concludes by charging Christians to own up their responsibility to be humble.
Read 1 Peter 5:5-14. After admonishing the elders to lead, what did Peter urge the young men to do (v.5)? How does lack of humility create bad feelings between the elderly and the young people? Why do some young people find it hard to submit to those in authority over them?
3. When Peter charged Christians to clothe in humility, he further explained what humility is all about:
 - a. Humility is submitting to God's timing for your exaltation in this life or the next (v.6). In other words, God's acknowledgment should count more than other people's praise. God, who makes all things in His time, might not recognize your achievements in this lifetime, but will certainly do in eternity as everything you do is being written down in your biography book in heaven. In our culture, how does a person market oneself so they can be recognized? Is it wrong to speak well of yourself when building credibility is a necessity? There were many famous people in the past that didn't set out to be famous but were faithful in what they did, which is what God sees. What does faithfulness in what you do entail?
 - b. Humility is casting all your cares on Jesus recognizing your inabilities and inadequacies (v.7). It is recognizing that there is someone more powerful or greater than you. Unless you see the smallness of your greatness, you can't see His greatness. Discuss why many Christians end up carrying their own

daily struggles, worries and stresses in life instead of fully trusting God? How is it possible to be confident and humble at the same time?

4. Peter closed his admonition with a word of caution: The adversary is ready to devour (v. 8-9). To whom does the adversary refer to? How does he use pride to take you down? Share with the group how you can resist and fight the adversary in your life.
5. Peter concluded this passage with a word of encouragement: The God of all grace has an amazing plan for your life (v. 10-11). God looks for humble men and women to pour out His grace. You could look at His plan with a short view or a long view, knowing that His best plan for you might not be here on earth. How does the knowledge of having an eternal life in Christ help you deal with sufferings that keep you humble? How does realizing that Jesus died for us help in keeping us humble and trusting His plan?
6. Peter's concluding greetings. Who did Peter mention in his greetings? Who sent greetings along with him? How did Peter tell these brothers to greet one another (v.14)?

Walk

Peter ended this book with the responsibility to be humble, removing your attention from yourself, but focusing on God instead. Peter knew that without taking the responsibility to be humble, it would also be hard to take on the other responsibilities. Unless your attention is geared and shifted from yourself back to God, you will not understand the truth that decreasing yourself is increasing Christ. How do you understand your standing before God? Do you believe that it is in the 'smallness of your greatness' that you will see His greatness? In what certain area in your life would you ask God to help you be humble?

Worship & Prayer

Dear God, I thank you for making me realize how important humility is in my life. Forgive me for the times when I did things out of a motivation to be recognized and be honored by people. I admit that, sometimes I think too highly of myself and forget how small I am compared to your greatness, which causes me to depend on my own abilities and strength. Thank You for reminding me that, what counts the most is Your acknowledgement of me in Your own time. I have also come to the realization of how much I am in need to trust You more than myself, which is an expression of humility. Take away any pride that you see in me that I may be delivered from the lies of the adversary. And I look forward to what You have in-stored ahead of me. May I continue to decrease so that You may continue to increase! In Christ name I pray, Amen.