

The New Testament Church
Walking humbly with God – Micah 6:8; Galatians 2:20; 2nd Corinthians 12:9-10
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I Micah 6:8 – Pride is the Number One Enemy we face as Believers

- A. Micah prophesied when Israel was taken captive by Assyria (the time of Isaiah, Hoseah)
 - 1. Israel was allowed by God to go into captivity in order to bring them to repentance
 - 2. Judah wouldn't fall to Babylon until 586... but was alternating good Kings and evil ones
 - 3. The hope of Micah was chapter 5:2 – that a Messiah would be born in obscurity (humility)
- B. Believers at the time were told that they should live by a different spirit (Micah 6:8)
 - 1. *He has shown thee O man, what is good...*
 - 2. *And what does the Lord require of thee...*
 - a. *To do justly* – humility is critical for justice to be done without revenge
 - b. *And to love mercy* – humility is required so the love of God can be given even to enemies
 - c. *And to walk humbly with thy God* – this means present tense, walking *in a humble attitude*.
- C. The meaning of Pride and Humility
 - 1. Pride from its Hebrew root - *arrogance, insensitivity* – displayed by *eyes, attitude, speech...*
 - a. Pride blinds us, it brings contention, destruction, division (Pr. 13:10; 16:18)
 - b. God calls Satan the “king over all the children of pride” (Job 41:34)
 - 2. Humility is *genuine gratitude*, for Jesus came as “meek and lowly” (Mt. 11:29)
 - a. *I dwell... with him who has a contrite and humble spirit* – Isaiah 57:15
 - b. *God resists the proud, gives grace to the humble* (Pr. 3:34; Ja. 4:5; 1st Peter 5:5)
 - c. Humility is the *fear of the Lord...* (Pr. 22:4), making sure we are right with God first...
 - d. Humility is *caring about others, listening to them with empathy, being friendly*

II Galatians 2:20 - The Position of the Believer – the *doctrine of substitutionary atonement*

- A. *I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live*
 - 1. When Christ was crucified, He nailed our flesh as well as our sin to the cross!
 - 2. This was not destroying us, because we still live physically, and spiritually
- B. *Yet not I, but Christ lives in me*
 - 1. Our soul – mind, will and emotions still live – but cannot be fully trusted
 - 2. In our spirit, by the power of the Holy Spirit, is Christ's nature – in us
 - 3. Sanctification involves yielding our thought-patterns, will and emotions to the Word
- C. *The life which I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God*
 - 1. We live in a sinful world, in our physical bodies, but we can overcome
 - 2. We overcome, not by *our faith*, but by *His faith* in us!

III 2nd Corinthians 12:9-10 – How does God work humility into our hearts and lives?

- A. *My grace is sufficient for you*
 - 1. True humility is when we recognize our salvation is of grace – His ability, not ours
 - 2. It is sufficient, meaning, we cannot take any credit; He does use us (let another praise you)
- B. *My strength is made perfect in weakness*
 - 1. The weaker we know we are, the greater His strength becomes evident to us
 - 2. God will bring things into our lives to show us how weak we are in will, mind, emotions
- C. *We can “boast” in infirmities, reproaches, persecution, distress – but only for Christ's sake*
 - 1. Boasting here means we embrace, accept, understand the purpose of – these afflictions
 - 2. The proportion in which we embrace our weakness the more the anointing of Christ rests on us
 - 3. It is hard to explain, but being around someone genuinely humble is a “sweet smelling savor” but humility around those who are proud is foolishness – see 2nd Corinthians 2:15-16
 - 4. ***Walking humbly before God is consciously recognizing our weakness, depending upon Him***