

Keys to Successful Living

Part eight-dated 25/10/15

Reading: Hebrews 10:24-25

Let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

We will now look at the 8th key in the series of “Keys to successful living”. The key is titled LET US CONSIDER ONE ANOTHER TO STIR UP LOVE AND GOOD WORKS. The true essence of this particular key is: **To consider one another**. We are to consider one another from the point of view of how we can bring out the best in each other. So many people are shut up/closed/locked up themselves in the prison of self. Their basic problem is self-centeredness. They are never truly happy; they never enjoy true peace. In fact, the more we concentrate on our-self & worry about our-self and seek pleasure for our-self—the more our problems will increase. One Scriptural way to be released from that prison is to **stop** worrying about **self** all the time. **We are to follow Jesus example** and live out Paul’s exhortation (strong statement urging someone to do something). It reads:

Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others (Philippians 2:3-4 NASB).

Due to fallen state of humanity and its self-centeredness, the world does not highly regard humility. Yet, the Bible’s God-centered view of Humanity & Salvation, places the utmost importance on **humility** (humbleness, lack of pride, modesty, meekness, submissiveness—The opposite is arrogance (too great a sense of one’s own importance).

Christian Humility

Greek: *tapeinophrosune* (NT:5012). Translated "humility" ([1 Peter 5:5](#); [Col. 2:18,23](#)); "humility of mind" ([Acts 20:19](#)); "humbleness of mind" ([Col. 3:12](#)); "lowliness" ([Ephes. 4:2](#)); and "lowliness of mind" ([Phil. 2:3](#)). Humility is the Secret to the Following Things:

1. The glory of the creature ([Rev. 4:11](#); [Luke 17:10](#))
2. Redemption ([Phil. 2:5-8](#))
3. Riches and honor ([Proverbs 15:33](#); [Proverbs 22:4](#); [Matthew 5:3](#))
4. Fellowship ([Isaiah 57:15](#); [Isaiah 66:2](#))
5. Soul rest ([Matthew 11:29](#))
6. Personal salvation ([Matthew 18:3](#); [Luke 18](#))
7. Greatness ([Matthew 20:26-27](#); [Luke 22:26](#))
8. Exaltation ([Matthew 23:12](#); [Luke 14:11](#))
9. Revelation ([Matthew 11:25](#); [Luke 10:21](#))
10. Unity ([Ephes. 4:1-3](#); [Ephes. 5:21](#); [1 Peter 5:5](#))
11. Victorious Christian living ([Romans 12:10,16](#); 1 Cor13; [Galatians 5:26](#); [Phil. 2:1-4](#); [Col. 3:5-14](#); [1 John 4:20](#); [1 Tim. 1:15](#); [Titus 2:11-14](#))
12. Faith ([Matthew 8:8](#); [Matthew 15:28](#); [John 4:50](#))

Ten Examples of Humility:

1. Abraham ([Genesis 18:27,32](#))
2. Jacob ([Genesis 32:10-11](#))
3. Moses ([Exodus 4:10](#); [Numbers 12](#))
4. David ([2 Samuel 7:18-19](#); [1 Chron. 17:17](#))
5. Job ([Job 42:4-6](#))
6. Isaiah ([Isaiah 6:5](#))
7. The centurion ([Matthew 8:8](#))
8. John the Baptist ([John 3:30](#))
9. Jesus (see Christ's Union With the Father)
10. Paul ([Ephes. 3:8](#); [1 Tim. 1:15](#))

Five Examples of Humility Before Honor:

1. Joseph ([Genesis 39:1-41:57](#))
2. Gideon ([Judges 6:15](#))
3. Daniel ([Daniel 2:30-48](#))
4. Hananiah ([Neh. 7:2](#))
5. Jesus Christ ([Phil. 2:5-11](#))

(1) To be humble means we will be conscious of our weakness and quick to give credit to God and others for what we accomplish (John 3:27; 5:19; 14:10 and James 4:6)

(2) We must be humble because we are sinful apart from Christ (Luke 18: 9-14) and can boast in nothing (Romans 7:18; Gal 6:3) except in the Lord (2-Cor 10:17). We are dependent on God for our worth and fruitfulness and can accomplish nothing without God's help and the help of others (Ps 8:4-5; John 15:1-6).

(3) God delights in those who walk humbly (Isaiah 57:15; Micah 6:8). He gives an increase of grace to the humble but opposes the proud (James 4:6; 1-Peter 5:5).

(4) As believers we must live in humility toward one another, considering others more important than ourselves (compare Romans 12:3).

The opposite of humility is pride and arrogance, a haughty spirit and an exaggerated feeling of self-importance. The inevitable (unavoidable) tendency of human nature and the world is toward pride—not humility (1-Jn 2:16; compare Isa 14:13-14; Eze 28:17 and 1Tim 6:17).

In Philippians 2, Paul talks about the need to follow the example of Jesus. He goes on to say: ***Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bondservant (Phil 2:5-7 NASB).***

In the beginning of this series we talked about the vital role of attitude in the overall process of successful living. I had said that our attitude determines our approach and our approach determines the outcome. So here, we see the attitude of Christ that we need to cultivate in ourselves. What was His attitude??? The Greek word translated bondservant literally means “slave”. So we see that Jesus, who was Lord of all, emptied Himself and was willing to become a bondservant—a slave. That is the attitude Paul says all Christians need to imitate.

We find a beautiful parallel passage in Galatians 5:13-14 by Paul, which reads:
For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an

opportunity for the flesh {that is, to gratify your own fleshly and selfish desires}, but through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement “you shall love your neighbor as yourself”.

The way for us not to indulge our fleshly nature, not to yield to selfishness and not to be locked up in the prison of self is to look outward to others—through love serve one another is exactly what the Holy Spirit is emphasizing to God’s people today.

Many people talk about serving the Lord BUT they never serve their fellow believers. Can we really serve the Lord if we are not willing to serve our fellow believers. After all, true believers are the body of Christ/ they are the members of His body. If they are not being served, we cannot claim to be serving the Lord. Our attitude towards those members is really our attitude toward the Lord Himself.

The Example of Paul

Let’s look at a statement Paul wrote to the Corinthians Christians. Bear in mind, Paul had a background of being a strict, observant, orthodox Jew. He had the qualifications to be a rabbi. He was a Pharisee. His approach to righteousness was such that it caused him to separate himself from other people and consider them at a low level. On the other hand, Corinthians were regarded basically as the dregs(worthless) of the earth.

In his letter to them, Paul says that some of them had been homosexuals, some prostitutes, some drunkards and some revilers (criticize in a rude or scornful way). See 1-Cor 6:9-11). Corinth was one of the major seaport of the ancient world and as often happens in seaport town, immorality was widespread. So imagine, how this “Pharisee of Pharisees” would have looked down upon these people. But when he came to know Jesus, the most wonderful change took place in his nature and life. In that context, consider the astonishing statement by Paul “ For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as our Lord and ourselves as your bond servants for Jesus’ sake”.(2-Cor 4:5). Here a proud Pharisee is saying “we are your slaves for the sake of Jesus” Notice the three(3) steps Paul outlines. **First**, dethrone self—by saying “not ourselves”.

Second, enthrone Christ— “Christ Jesus the Lord”. **Third**, serve others—“we are your bondservants for Jesus’ sake”. These three steps are so important in the life of every believer. By love we serve others and it is only possible if we are able to escape from self-centeredness. However, we have to remember that **Serving is a skill**, that we have to acquire. It does not just happens and it is not ours by nature. Like a waiter we need to be trained to serve. Serving requires practice, training and discipline. Serving also requires the right environment. Verse 25 indicates that believers need to encourage each other to assemble together, especially as we see the day of the Lord drawing near. In other words, committed regular fellowship is required for serving each other.

The message therefore is: to stay in fellowship, consider one another and learn to serve each other joyfully. May god help us just to do that in these End-Times.....Amen.