



# FAMILY STUDY

Exalting Humility



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## "Exalting Humility"

### The Desire to be Honored

How important is it to you to be well-thought-of? We may all want to believe that it doesn't matter to us what people think about us, but as sinners, it is natural for us to want to be honored in front of other people. Some of us want to be famous for this very reason. Other times, we simply want people to know what a good job we may have done on something. Others enjoy being the center of attention. The fact is, we like to be thought of highly by our peers.

True honor, however, cannot be falsely manufactured by ourselves—it comes when others give it to us. When we quietly and humbly go about our lives and OTHERS point out something positive about us, that is true honor. Yet, many of us continue to carry on proudly, making sure that the people around us know just how good we are at something.

This Family Study includes numerous Bible references for you to look up and study as a family this week on the topic of pride vs. humility, and as you will see, humility is a far more desirable attitude. May God bless you as you study with your family this week!

### Exalting Yourself

Most of us can think of people who love to draw attention to themselves, trying to exalt themselves before men or before God. The following Scripture references provide examples of such people who were observed during Bible times, and the accounts of them are not flattering.

Matthew 23:1-12	Luke 18:9-14
Mark 12:38-40	Luke 20:46-47
Luke 11:43-44	

### The Proud will be Humbled

In the accounts listed above, Jesus looked upon people who sought honor for themselves with disgust, sometimes even saying "woe to those" who do such things. Clearly, a prideful attitude which seeks personal honor is displeasing to God. Moreover, Jesus repeatedly stated in the gospels that the proud would be humbled.

Matthew 23:11-12	Luke 18:14
Luke 14:11	

### From Honor to Humility

Not only did Jesus repeatedly say that the proud would be humbled and that the humble would be exalted, He provided some examples. One of them is found in Luke 18:9-14, as a Pharisee and a tax collector pray. The Pharisee prays about how wonderful he is, but the tax collector humbly beats his chest and asks God for forgiveness. Jesus pointed out that the humble tax collector—not the Pharisee—went home justified. Another clear example of the proud being humbled is found in Luke 14:7-11.

### Read Luke 14:7-11

In this parable, Jesus warns against taking the most important or prominent places for ourselves, because we run the risk of being unseated and humiliated when someone of greater importance arrives. Instead, Jesus urges us to take the lowest place, so that if appropriate, our host can move us to a better place. This parable gives us a clear understanding of what Jesus expects of us—to be humble—and ends with a promise in verse 11 that whoever exalts himself will be humbled, but whoever humbles himself will be exalted. The Lord's expectations for us on this matter could not be more clear: We are to humble ourselves.

### Additional Examples

Job 24:24	Isaiah 14:11
Psalms 18:27	Isaiah 23:9
Psalms 20:8	Isaiah 26:5
Isaiah 10:12	

### Humility--The Right Attitude

As we have seen, God dislikes it when we exalt ourselves and promises to humble those who do so. After all, as First Corinthians 4:7 asks, what do we have that we did not receive? If we possess any skill or talent, any high position or fame, it is because God has given it to us. These things should cause us to exalt the Lord—not ourselves! Below are several more Scripture references to humility.

Micah 6:8	Luke 22:26
Matthew 20:26	Romans 11:20
Mark 9:35	Philippians 2:5
Mark 10:43	James 4:10
Luke 14:10	1 Peter 5:5

### Promises Concerning Humility and Contrition

Psalms 34:18	Isaiah 66:2
Proverbs 22:4	Matthew 18:4
Proverbs 29:23	

### Conclusion

We have seen that God is not pleased with prideful attitudes on our part. Indeed, it is ridiculous for us to be overly proud of ourselves, as though we have accomplished anything apart from God's doing. Humility is a far more honest attitude. It enables us to see things more realistically, and humility enables us to come to Christ. This is not to say that it is wrong to have confidence, but our confidence should be in the Lord, who enables us to do all things.

May God bless you as you meditate on these Scriptures this week, and may you and your family humbly serve the Lord!