

Humility

(Part 2)

“¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; ¹⁷ but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.” (Genesis 2:16-17)

God gave a clear instruction to the man how to behave in the Garden of Eden; that he is allowed to eat from all the trees in the garden except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God told him, ***“for when you eat from it you will certainly die.”***

“¹ Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’” (Genesis 3:1) Satan here was testing the woman and checking what is inside her. And the following is what she answered: “² The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³ but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.” (Genesis 3:2-3) God truly said to man that you ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, or you will die,’ but God did not say, ‘you must not touch it.’ That was the woman invention and not God’s word. Why the woman added to God’s word? Because she had pride and she want to do what she wants. That was her own way of doing things and not what the LORD ordained for her to do. Satan discerned from the woman’s answer that she had pride because she changed God’s word and made her own version. Proverbs 30:6 says, “Do not add to his words, or he will rebuke you and prove you a liar.” Satan saw that inside the woman are pride and lies as he is, so he introduced to her his version of disobedience, “⁴ You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. ⁵ “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” (Genesis 3:4-5) That Satan answer put in the woman life more pride and arrogance and encourage her to go in disobedience against God’s will and plan.

One day the Lord Jesus Christ was asked about the issue of divorce, ***“Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?” (Matthew 19:3)*** That was a strange question for the Lord to hear and was unexpected from those who seem they are followers of God! Jesus answered them and told them ***“⁴ Haven’t you read,” he replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’ ⁵ and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh?’ ⁶ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.” (Matthew 19:4-6)*** Those who asked the Lord they had read and they know what God had said in His word, ***“Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate,”*** Therefore divorce was man’s version and not God’s version. But still they were stubborn and questioned the Lord Jesus, ***“Why then,” they asked, “did Moses command that a man give his wife a certificate of divorce and send her away?” (Matthew 19:7)*** ***“⁸ Jesus replied, “Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning.” (Matthew 19:8)*** From Jesus’ answer we can conclude that divorce was neither Moses nor God’s version. Jesus said about it, ***“But it was not this way from the beginning.”*** Divorce is people’s version because of their hard hearts.

As the woman added to the command of God and changed it due to her pride, men continue to do the same with the rest of God’s commands and teachings. Because of his pride man had changed God’s rule and introduced his own rules and ways, in regard for marriage, family life, rearing children, education, serving God, tithing, water baptism, and the same for the rest of God’s word and commands.

That sin of changing and editing God’s word due to man’s pride, also made man non teachable or unwilling to be corrected. Those who have pride once you start to speak to them and try to explain to them the truth they either not listen or says, ‘I know ...,’ and will not allow you to proceed and teach them.

What God is giving to man from resources and talents it can be a reason for man to have pride and do his own will and plan. Therefore the LORD certain times opposes your pride and caused you certain suffering in order to humble you down. God protected Paul from being conceited when He allowed certain difficulty in his life that Paul described as thorn in the flesh, ***“⁷ or because of these surpassingly great revelations. Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me.” (2Corinthians 12:7)*** Some they explain that the thorn in the flesh of Paul was a sickness affecting his sight. The Lord sometimes may allow certain difficulties, illnesses or hardship so that he would break your pride and humble you and that for your own good. ***“And those who walk in pride He is able to put down.” (Daniel 4:27c)***

Do not put aside the grace of God and neglect the blessing of God that he is sending you in the form of warning, correction, discipline and even rebuke. Do not be among those who will regret their wrong attitude in non accepting correction, ***“¹¹ At the end of your life you will groan, when your flesh and body are spent. ¹² You will say, “How I hated discipline! How my heart spurned correction! ¹³ I would not obey my teachers or turn my ear to my instructors. ¹⁴ And I was soon in serious trouble in the assembly of God’s people.” (Proverbs 5:11-14)***

My dear and beloved: Non-humble people are non teachable people, and their non willingness to be taught will cause them to remain in the pit of sin. But what the word of God tells us, ***“⁵ In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, “God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.” (1Peter 5:5)*** Humility and willingness to be taught and corrected is a safeguard for you and protection to you and a source of more grace in your life. Humility is rewarded by the Lord, ***“Listen to advice and accept discipline, and at the end you will be counted among the wise.” (Proverbs 19:20)*** As you give attention to advice and corrective instructions then you will reap the good things that God is sending you through His grace and mercy as you agree to pray.

My prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins and rose again from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord I repent from the sin of pride that ruining my life. Lord thank you for all the trials and the hardship that you allow in my life in order to humble me and break my pride. Lord gives me a teachable spirit and guards my life and my ways so that I will fear your name and walk in your ways of truth. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.