

## **INTRODUCTION**

1. Years ago I heard a Christian comedian say that someone gave him a humble button and he wore it but then they took it back.
2. Humility is not a button you wear on your shirt, it's an attitude of the heart.
3. In fact, it's only when we are humble that we can learn God's ways and His Word.
4. Psalm 25:9 says that God "teaches the humble His way."
5. James 1:21 (NASB) Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which

is able to save your souls.

6. This, James says, is the only way we can “receive” God’s Word...“in humility.”
7. The Bible says when you’re humble you have “wisdom” (Prov.11:2) and “honor” (Prov.29:23) and God’s grace (Jas.4:6).
8. So humility should be the attitude and path we pursue.
9. Jesus was humble and called for all to take His yoke and learn from Him (Mat.11:29).
10. It is only then can a person be saved.
11. Denying yourself and taking up your cross everyday is how you do it (Lk.9:23).

12. This is not just once but daily.
13. The Corinthians needed to be reminded of this.
14. They received God's grace at salvation but was not walking in humility.
15. This was Paul's point in 1 Corinthians 1-4.
16. Their refusal to humble themselves created divisions in the church and that destroyed their unity.
17. So Paul offered himself and Apollos, whom He calls servants, to help them to learn humility.

First we see...

## **LESSON**

# I. Paul's Analogy Applied (v.6a)

## A. To Himself and Apollos

Paul says in verse 4, "Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively applied to myself and Apollos."

"These things" he "figuratively applied" were the analogies he used in chapter 3

1. Of farmers (3:6-9)
2. Of builders (3:10-15)
3. Of Servant-Stewards (4:1-5)

Now he applies them...

## B. To the Corinthians

He said he applied these things to “myself and Apollos for your sakes.”

1. This is humility in action

2. He always gave himself for others

a) He said in He said in Ephesians 4:29 (NASB) Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.

b) This is the kind of man Paul was. He told the Thessalonian believers in 1 Thessalonians 1:5 (NASB) for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the

Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake.

- c) He told Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:10 (NASB) For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory.
- d) You hear how he gave himself in 2 Corinthians 11:25-28 (NASB) Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent in the deep. 26 I have been on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from

robbers, dangers from my countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers on the sea, dangers among false brethren; 27 I have been in labor and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. 28 Apart from such external things, there is the daily pressure on me of concern for all the churches.

Notice also in verse 6 Paul gives his...

## **II. Paul's Point for His Analogy (v.6b)**

He gives two hina purpose clauses that begin with "so that"

Again using him and Apollos he says he used these things or analogies “so that in us you may...”

First...

### A. Learn Not to Exceed What is Written

“Learn” is from Manthano which means “to learn by use and practice”<sup>1</sup>

1. They Needed to Learn Not to Exalt Leaders Beyond the Boundaries of Scripture
  - a) Having clicks violated Scripture
  - b) Pitting oneself against another violated Scripture

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<sup>1</sup> Abbott-Smith. A Manual Greek Lexicon of the New Testament.



The Corinthians needed to live within the boundaries prescribed by Scripture, to live in a way consistent with what the Scripture has to say about human wisdom<sup>2</sup> as well as leaders.

## 2. Leaders Are to Be Respected Not Made Into Celebrities

- a) By appreciation - 1 Thess.5:12
- b) By provision - 1 Tim.5:17
- c) By remembrance - Heb.13:7
- d) By conduct - Heb.13:7
- e) By imitation - Heb.13:7

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<sup>2</sup> Taylor, Mark. [1 Corinthians](#). Ed. E. Ray Clendenen. Vol. 28. Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing Group, 2014. Print. The New American Commentary.

f) By obedience and submission -  
Heb.13:17

The second hina purpose clause (“so that”) or the second reason for applying these analogies to “myself and Apollos” was so that...

## B. You Will Not Become Arrogant

1. Their arrogance was “in behalf of one against the other”
2. They were “puffed up” with pride

It is precisely their going beyond Scripture, that is, going further than Scripture says, that has led to the divisions.

They are going further than Scripture

when they insist that the grace-gifts of the Spirit reveal status and authenticate Christian maturity.

They are going further than Scripture in judging leaders with a judgment that belongs to the Lord alone.<sup>3</sup>

Garland says, “Instead of boasting only in the Lord, the giver of the gifts, they boast in humans, the recipients of the gifts, and create factions and dissensions.”<sup>4</sup>

No one should exalt themselves over others; no one should be puffed up; no one should exhibit a lofty and proud spirit against and over others.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Gardner, Paul. [1 Corinthians](#). Ed. Clinton E. Arnold. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018. Print. Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament.

<sup>4</sup> Vang, Preben. [1 Corinthians](#). Ed. Mark L. Strauss. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2014. Print. Teach the Text Commentary Series.

<sup>5</sup> Manetsch, Scott M., Timothy George, and David W. McNutt, eds. [1 Corinthians: New Testament](#). IXa. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2017. Print. Reformation Commentary on Scripture.

3. Pride and arrogance were great problems in the Corinthian church (\*see vv.18,19; 5:2; 8:1; 2 Cor.12:20\*)
4. To be arrogant or prideful is to have an inflated view of yourself.
5. It's the opposite of humility. It is essentially saying, "I'm for me."
6. The proper view is God first, others second, self third.
7. Scripture says pride is a sin - Proverbs 21:4 (NASB) Haughty eyes and a proud heart, the lamp of the wicked, is sin.
8. Pride is hateful to God - Proverbs 16:5 (NASB) Everyone who is proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord;

assuredly, he will not be unpunished.

9. Pride comes from self-righteousness - Luke 18:10-14 (NASB) “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.’ 13 But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, the sinner!’ 14 I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles

himself will be exalted.”

10. Pride is therefore forbidden - Romans 12:3 (NASB) For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.
  
11. Pride defiles every person - Mark 7:20-22 (NASB) And He was saying, “That which proceeds out of the man, that is what defiles the man. 21 For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, 22 deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness.

## 12. Pride is characteristic of:

- a) The devil - 1 Timothy 3:6 (NASB) and not a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil.
- b) The world - 1 John 2:16 (NASB) For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.
- c) False teachers - 1 Timothy 6:3-5 (NASB) If anyone advocates a different doctrine and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the

doctrine conforming to godliness, 4 he is conceited and understands nothing; but he has a morbid interest in controversial questions and disputes about words, out of which arise envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions, 5 and constant friction between men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain.

- d) Unbelievers - speaking of the wicked, Asaph says in Psalms 73:6 (NASB) Therefore pride is their necklace; the garment of violence covers them.

## **CONCLUSION**



1. So which are you humble or prideful?
2. Are you pitting yourself against others because of a favorite teacher you may have?
3. We are to respect God's leaders and not go beyond what Scripture allows.
4. Putting them on pedestals and making them out to be celebrities is sin and it should be resisted with all our heart.
5. Paul wanted this to stop because it was destroying the church.
6. And it will destroy us if we do the same thing.
7. We should have a right view of ourselves and we can do that if we choose to be humble.

8. Let's humble ourselves before God right now.

9. As we pray, you may be holding on to your pride by not submitting your life to Jesus.

10. Abandon your pride and give up your life for Him.

11. Make that exchange today....your life for Christ's.

12. Repent and surrender to Jesus.

13. Let's pray.

## I. Paul's Analogy Applied (v.6a)

- A. To Himself and Apollos
- B. To the Corinthians

## II. Paul's Point for His Analogy (v.6b)

- A. Learn Not to Exceed What is Written
- B. You Will Not Become Arrogant