

MAY 1, 2022 – ONE ANOTHER SERIES

LESSON 14

BE HUMBLE TOWARDS ONE ANOTHER

“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.” Ephesians 4:32

BUD ONCE AGAIN BEGAN THE STUDY BY REMINDING US THAT JESUS GAVE A COMMAND TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER.

LAST WEEK WE DISCUSSED BEING KIND TO ONE ANOTHER. KINDNESS INVOLVES BEING FRIENDLY, GENEROUS, CONSIDERATE, POLITE, ATTENTIVE, MINDFUL, AND COURTEOUS. RON REMINDED US THAT IT IS ABOUT OUR DAILY WALK, BEING IN UNITY, AND EXERCISING THE GIFTS GOD HAS GIVEN US. WE MUST BE PROFITABLE AND USEFUL TO ONE ANOTHER AND ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER TO MATURITY.

THIS WEEK -- BE HUMBLE TOWARDS ONE ANOTHER

“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.” Ephesians 4:32

WE THEN MOVED INTO TABLE DISCUSSIONS REGARDING UNITY (A TABULATION OF THE DISCUSSIONS IS ATTACHED.

BUD THEN RAISED THE QUESTION OF HOW DOES THE BIBLE DEFINE HUMILITY?

WHILE THE SCRIPTURES CONTAIN MULTIPLE REFERENCES TO HUMILITY, HERE ARE FOUR EXAMPLES:

- 1. THE OPPOSITE OF PRIDE – PROVERBS 11:2**
- 2. SOMETHING GOD OPPOSES – JAMES 4:10**
- 3. THE PATHWAY TO BE EXALTED BY GOD – I PETER 5:6; LUKE 13:11; ETAL**
- 4. COUNTING OTHERS MORE SIGNIFICANT THAN YOURSELF – PHILIPPIANS 12:3**

WE THEN MOVED INTO A REVIEW OF A BIBLICAL REFERENCE

I PETER 5:5 “Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

BUD DISCUSSED A BRIEF REVIEW OF THE BACKGROUND OF I PETER INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING”

- 1. WRITTEN TO BELIEVERS SCATTERED IN NORTHERN ASIA MINOR**
- 2. MUCH REFERENCE TO PERSECUTION EXPECTED DURING THE REIGN OF NERO**
- 3. WRITTEN PRIOR TO AD 66-68 WHEN PETER WAS MARTYRED**
- 4. FOCUS ON BELIEVERS SURVIVING UNJUST SUFFERING
“SANCTIFY CHRIST AS LORD” 3:14 – 18**

EPHESIANS 4:2 “Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.”

BUD INTRODUCED THE EPHESIANS PASSAGE TO AGAIN ILLUSTRATE THE THEME OF HUMILITY

CONTEXT

1. WRITTEN TO BELIEVERS SCATTERED IN NORTHERN ASIA MINOR
2. MUCH REFERENCE TO PERSECUTION EXPECTED DURING THE REIGN OF NERO
3. WRITTEN PRIOR TO AD 66-68 WHEN PETER WAS MARTYRED
4. FOCUS ON BELIEVERS SURVIVING UNJUST SUFFERING – “SANCTIFY CHRIST AS LORD” 3:14 – 18

BUD THEN ASKED RON TO UNPACK THIS PASSAGE BY ASKING HIM THREE IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

1. HOW DO YOU CONNECT GENTLENESS, PATIENCE, AND FOREBEARANCE WITH HUMILITY?
2. HOW DOES IT RELATE TO PUTTING UP WITH ONE ANOTHER’S FAILINGS?
3. HOW DOES ALL OF THIS RELATE TO PEACE AND UNITY AND LOVE?

(SEE RON’S NOTES BELOW)

HOW THEN SHALL WE LIVE?

1. WALK WORTHY OF YOUR CALLING
2. PUT UP WITH SOMEONE’S FAILURES
3. BE GENTLE AND PATIENT AND FORBEARING OFOW ONE ANOTHER
4. RECOGNIZE THE DIFFICULTIES OF ANOTHER

NEXT WEEK -- CONFESS TO ONE ANOTHER/PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER

JAMES 5:16 THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS

RON’S NOTES ON EPHESIANS 4:2

1 Pet. 5:5 “You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders. And all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God stands against the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

Older men should lead by example. **Men, to what younger man or men is your life an example? Who is watching and observing you? You’re either a good example, a bad example or somewhere in between. But you cannot avoid being an example. What kind of example are you setting?**

There are two references to humility or humble in this verse and one in the next verse.

This verse begins with:

Be subject to—to place or arrange under, subordinate oneself.

Who are the elders referred to? *Presbuteros*.

Peter continues with: *Clothe yourselves*. This means to put a garment around you by tying it. In other words, wear it securely. Humility should be securely worn around your whole lives.

The essence of the word, *humility*, here means *not to stand out*. It is literally two words meaning “humble in your mind”

or a humble attitude. But humility does not exist in isolation.

Proud means to place yourself conspicuously above others. Literally, this word means to try to outshine others. Hyper-shining

To *set oneself against* (anti) to, or stand against.

The second word, *humble*, here is the single word, unlike humility above. It means to be undistinguished.

Remember Phil. 2:3. You are to think of others as more important than yourselves.

1. This starts with a realistic self-appraisal. Remember Rom. 12:3.
2. You are also to realize all your gifts and abilities come from God. 1 Cor. 4:7 *“What do you have that you did not receive. And if you received it, why do you boast as if you had not?”*
3. You are to resist the temptation to make yourself look better than (outshine) others.

Humility is at the heart of koinonia. There cannot be true koinonia without it. And you cannot follow the *One Another* passages without humility. This is the attitude we are to have.

1 Peter 5:6 *“Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that He may exalt you at the proper time,”*

Humility comes up again. **Why under God’s mighty hand?** Consider this, putting your pride in check by your own strength would give you something to be proud of. It’s only possible through God’s strength. Isn’t it amazing how many little ways pride can so deceitfully creep into our lives?

“Proper time” means at the opportune time or the time when something is available. If you humble yourselves, exaltation will come in God’s timing. How will this feel? Exalted but not proud. What does that mean? At the end of the day....

1 Peter 5:7 *“casting all your anxiety on Him, because everything about you really matters to Him.*

“Casting” here means to throw down upon with confidence.

Anxiety, refers to what causes a dividing of the mind. What is a divided mind?

Care here means what really matters.

Carrying your own worries, stresses and daily struggles shows that you have not trusted God fully with your life. One of the things humility will do is allow you to recognize that God cares for you, and also to admit your need and allow others in the body to help you. This is active and intentional, not passive. *“Under the circumstances...”*

1 Peter 5:8 *“Be of sober spirit, be on the alert your adversary, the devil prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”*

Eph. 4:1 *“Therefore, as the Lord’s prisoner, I beseech you to walk worthy of what you have been called to,”*

Eph. 4:2 *with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing forbearance to one another in love,”*

1. How do you connect gentleness and patience with humility?

This is not the usual word for *“with”*. This means among or together with.

This is the same *humility of mind*, continual attitude, that we saw in 1 Peter. Paul uses this word 5 of the 7 times it’s in the N.T. This is important to Christian living’

Gentleness here is closely linked with humility. It means to be unassuming and considerate. What does *“unassuming”* mean? Paul uses this word all of the 9 times it occurs in the N.T. It’s an important character description to him.

The word translated *“patience”* literally means remove anger far behind, or be slow to anger. For example, when you

feel anger knocking at your door, don't open it. Paul uses this word 10 of the 14 times it's in the N.T. It is one of the words Paul uses to describe the character of God. He removes anger far away when dealing with us. This is also one way we are to imitate God.

2. How does it relate to putting up with one another's failings?

To *forbear* here means to endure or put up with. Paul uses this word 10 of the 15 times it's in the N.T. Sometimes this is used as a good characteristic for Christians. Sometimes it is used as a negative of what Christians put up with that they should not. 2 Cor. 11:1-4, 20.

Here is an application from Sittser's "*Love One another*":

We do a lot of stupid things. God knows this and still "puts up with" us. This is the same sense in which Paul is using this word. Put up with one another even though you all do stupid things. God looks past our stupidity, forbearing with, and loving us through it.

Why does Scripture so often mention God's forbearance. To remind us of how He treats us and to encourage us to treat one another the same way. If He forbears with us, what right do we have not to forbear with one another? The same goes for His love and forgiveness.

But how far does forbearance require us to go? Biblical or moral standards are not ever to be overlooked. How about an irritating personality or character blind spot? How about continued immaturity? Where is the line between overlooking behavior and confronting it? What God wants is for us to allow Him to be lord in the lives of others as we let Him be lord in our own lives.

Forbearance requires:

1. Grace.
2. Discernment. Jesus is our model. How can we copy Him?
3. Patience.
4. Acceptance. Paul told us in Rom. 15:7 to accept one another as Christ has accepted us.
5. Listening—a secondary meaning of the word, *forbear*, is to listen, or pay attention.

3. How does this relate to peace and unity and love?

Eph. 4:3 "*being diligent to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*"

Diligent means to strive for something.

To *keep* also means to guard and to protect.

Unity, is a sense of being at one with.

The "*bond*" here is two words together. It means being chained together like two prisoners. Think of being handcuffed or shackled together. We are to be shackled to peace in all that we do. What does that mean to you?

This is all "*in love*". This means that this occurs *within* or surrounded by love.