

# Humility, Submission and Obedience

## A Lord's Flock Praise & Worship Topic

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The three religious vows are chastity, poverty and obedience. But in the Augustine order, there is a fourth vow – humility. Humility is the quality of being modest or free from pride and arrogance.



There are three simple points on humility that will help us to grow in our faith:

### 1. Humility is the first and most important step towards a holy life.

- ❖ The way to Christ is in three steps, according to St. Augustine. “First - through Humility, Second- through Humility, and third- through Humility.” Why does St. Augustine repeat humility three times?
  - ❖ We are reminded that by our human nature, we are proud, self-centered, selfish.
  - ❖ We don't remember God anymore. We forget His essence; but without God, we are nothing. “God bestows us a grace and says, “God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble” (Jas. 4:6).
  - ❖ One thing the devil hates is a humble person. Because the devil is very proud.

### 2. Humility is the foundation of all virtues.

- ❖ We must be attached to the soil. The term humility comes from the Latin word “humilitas” or grounded / derived from humus (earth and soil). We must be grounded for our life to be fertile. “Sometimes a grain of wheat must fall to the ground and die. It will grow and produce much fruit. But if it never dies, it remains only a single seed” (Jn. 12:24).
- ❖ “Humility is the mother of all virtues.” If we are humble, we become loving, kind, charitable, joyful, and sharing.

### 3. Humility helps extend oneself to the other.

- ❖ We have become “anthropocentric” (meaning humankind is the central or most important element of existence, as opposed to God). We see a self-centered, man-centered generation. We see today an “I or Me” generation. Every time we post something on social media, we want to check how many will like our post.
- ❖ On the contrary, we must try to extend ourselves to reach out to others. It should not be all about me. Rather, we should put “God first.” God is the central interest and the ultimate concern (theocentric).
- ❖ The moment we get detached from God, then we start to lose our relationship with God.

### 4. With humility, submission and obedience follow:

- ❖ Submitting ourselves to God means that we listen to Him, we obey and follow Him. When we submit ourselves to God, we acknowledge His Lordship in our lives.
- ❖ “So, submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee you” (James 4:7).
- ❖ We must watch out for our natural tendency to be full of pride and be ready to admit mistakes. “Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord and He will lift you up” (Jas. 4:10).

### Conclusion:

Humility is putting our entire dependence on God. It is the highest virtue and the root of every virtue. As natural and easy as it is to be proud, it must become natural for us to be humble.

### Reflection:

1. How can you overcome your self-centeredness?
2. What actions can you take to remain grounded and be humble?

#### SCRIBES Ministry

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