

Some Relevant Quotes & Biblical References About Being Completely Committed in Our Devotion to Following Christ

—Humility is openly and honestly evaluating ourselves in view of God’s absolute holiness and our sinfulness. Without an honest assessment of our flawed nature in contrast to God’s perfect character, righteousness, and holiness, any personal evaluation will be tainted by pride and we’ll struggle in our efforts to understand or practice authentic humility.” —**GAD**

—“Humility is the spontaneous recognition of our absolute dependence on our Creator. True humility is the logical conclusion we draw when we are fully aware of the influence of our sinful nature.”

—**from Zondervan’s Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible**

—“Extreme forms of mental illness always seem to result from extreme cases of self-absorption. ... The distinctive quality, the thing that literally sets paranoid people apart is hyper-self-consciousness. And the thing they prize most about themselves is autonomy. Their constant fear is that someone else is interfering with their will or trying to direct their lives.” —**William K. Kilpatrick**

—“Total commitment is about being wise and smart, not necessarily being noble or virtuous. It’s not so much about self-denial but about logic and common sense. It’s not so much about what you lose; it’s about what you gain.” —**Chip Ingram**

—“When someone is humble they are focused on God and others, not self. Even their focus on others is out of a desire to love and glorify God. A humble person’s goal is to elevate God and encourage others. In short, they “no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf” (2 Corinthians 5:15).”

—**Stuart Scott**

—“Humility is not so much a grace or virtue along with others; it is the root of all, because it alone takes the right attitude before God, and allows Him as God to do all. ... It is simply the sense of entire nothingness, which comes when we see how truly God is all, and in which we make way for God to be all.” —**Andrew Murray**

—“The essential vice, the utmost evil, is pride. Unchastity, anger, greed, drunkenness, and all that, are mere flea bites in comparison! It was through pride that the devil became the devil!” —**C. S. Lewis**

—“Authentic followers of Christ follow Him in the midst of a hostile and toxic environment.” —**Chip Ingram**

—“ACTION STEP: Present yourself to God and ask Him to give you the faith to believe that you can experience genuine change in your attitude and behavior.” —**Erwin Lutzer**

—**** Questions for Personal Reflection & Discussion ****—

—**1}** In studying Romans 12:3, we would find many perspectives about defining what humility is. Here are a few of them:

—Humility is seeing things as they are; pride is seeing things in a puffed-up way, which feeds our ego and our self-love.

—*Humility is recognizing that all that we have and are, all that we will ever accomplish, is by the grace of God, and not of ourselves.*

—Humility is honestly assessing ourselves in light of God’s holiness and our sinfulness.

—*Humility is avoiding the temptation to put myself first and to consider others as valuable and important.*

Your thoughts? How would you define humility & why is it important?

—**2}** How should a humble person respond when someone pays him/her a compliment for something he/she did well? Does true or genuine humility mean that we should look down on ourselves? How would you describe false humility? How should we respond to those who are authentically discouraged about their abilities, failures, or struggles to find success in an area that they feel is important?

—**3}** Try to think of a personal or relational conflict that you’ve experienced. How would humility on your part have affected the outcome?

—**4}** How can we properly evaluate or determine whether we’re exercising our spiritual gifts to the full capacity that God intended? What guidelines should we use to examine this?

—**5}** Two of the most pressing problems that have impacted society and culture throughout history are pride and selfishness. How do they affect the way people understand the Gospel of God’s grace? How do they influence the way we look at one another? How do they impact the way we understand the way God’s grace works? How does genuine humility impact the problems caused by pride & selfishness?