



# QUEST 52

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## HUMILITY

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Gk—*Tapeinos* [ταπεινός]: Lowly, humble. It originally meant a state of poverty or oppression. (See also ταπεινώω, ταπείνωσις, and ταπεινοφροσύνη). This word is closely related to *praus* [πραύς], Matt 11:29; Eph 4:2; 2 Cor 10:1.

Heb—See *anah* (אָנָה); *shachach* (שָׁחַח); and *shaphael* (שָׁפַעַל). All carry the idea of bringing down, lowering, or abasing, even to the point of destruction and devastation. *Anah* also carries with it the connotation of poverty and oppression as does *tapeinos* (Gk) and is its closest counterpart.

### I. Description of Jesus

- A. Matt 11:29, "I am gentle [*praus*] and humble at heart."
- B. Phil 2:3-11, a description of the humiliation of the incarnation.

### II. The principle of exaltation and humiliation

- A. Humble yourselves before God and He will exalt you:
  1. Quotes: Matt 23:12; Luke 14:11; Jam 4:10; 1 Pet 5:5-6; Luke 18:14.
  2. Related: Matt 18:3-4; 20:26; Luke 1:48, 52-53; Luke 16:15; Phil 2:3-11; Jam 1:9-10; 4:6.
- B. The first shall be last and the last first:
  1. Matt 19:30; 20:8, 16, 27; Mark 9:35; 10:31, 44; Luke 13:30; 22:26.
- C. Principle in the O.T.
  1. Directly Related: Psa 18:27; 147:6; Prov 16:18-19; 18:22; 29:23; Isa 2:11-17; 53:10-12; 57:15; Ezek 17:24; 21:26.
  2. Indirectly Related: 1 Sam 2:7-10; Job 40:11, 12; Psa 37:11; Isa 13:11.

III. Humility turns away God's wrath, while arrogance elicits God's wrath (all *canah* except in Daniel): \*Lev 26:41; 1 Kings 21:29 (Ahab); 2 Kings 22:18-20; 2 Chron 7:14 ("If my people will humble themselves . . ."); 12:6,7 (Princes of Jerusalem); 12:12 (Rehoboam); 32:26; 33:10-13 (Manasseh); 34:27; Dan 4:37; 5:22-28.

### IV. In Regard to personal relationships

- A. Dominant principles:
  1. For unity of the Body
  2. Each member has a gift and a function
  3. In imitation of Christ's humility and condescending
- B. References:
  1. Rom 12:16—Condescend to men of low estate (cf. vv. 1-5)
  2. Eph 4:2—with humility and gentleness [*praus*], put up with one another.
  3. Phil 2:3—In imitation of Christ
  4. Col 3:13-22—Regarding "Body" relationships.