

He has given you to live. It is contrary to pride which is the concept of living in an exalted scale that is not proper for your living. There are false concepts of both pride and humility and I am not sure I have the time or energy to discuss them. But humility is not making yourself to be no one and pride is not a matter of always downgrading what you do. If the Lord has allowed you some special gift or ability here is no reason why you cannot use it for Him....but you must remember it was a gift from Him. To deny yourself the use of it is not humility but a sort of false pride but to take credit for it for yourself is pride in a sense that is spiritually intolerable. The humble person acknowledges the work of God and then goes and does what God has given him to do, not downgrading himself but praising the Lord and rejoicing in God's dealings. I will work to illustrate that on several lines and avoid the extremes that make us act like we were either the only ones that counted or were absolute zeroes in the game of life.

II. Discussion: In wearing the garment of humility here are the things suggested to me in our varied texts given at the start of this talk.

A. We accept our calling of God 1 Peter 5:1-5

The gifts that are ours as well as the offices we serve are given by God. Both the younger and older members of a fellowship accept their positions as from God and take the responsibilities that God gives to both. As we serve in the proper sequence, God "will exalt you" in due time. We do not try to make ourselves important but we do not deny what God wants us to do. The servant mentality dominates (as in the Mark text) and as servants we seek to please the One who has appointed us. We do not deny His gifts but we acknowledge that they are from Him. A song leader needs to lead the singing....he does not need to apologize for telling the pianist to follow him....he does not have to pretend he is Beethoven, either. Humility calls for an honest serving of the Lord.

B. We honor God's values 1 Peter 5:5

Humility is one of those things (or whatever) that God prizes greatly. (Isaiah 57:15). We are told in Psalm 51 that a broken and contrite spirit is acceptable to God and the words of the Lord Jesus in Luke 22 when He says "I am among you as one