



¹ Andrew Murray, *Humility: The Journey Toward Holiness* (Bloomington, MN: Bethany House Publisher, 2001), 26.

² C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity* (San Francisco, CA: Harper Collins, 2001), 121.

Notes:

LEADERS LEAD HUMBLY

Until a humility that rests on nothing less than the end and death of self and which gives up all honor of men, as Jesus did, to seek the honor that comes from God alone (which absolutely makes and counts itself nothing) that God may be all, that the Lord alone may be exalted—until such a humility is what we seek in Christ above our chief joy and welcome at any price, there is very little hope of a faith that will conquer the world.¹

Andrew Murray

[Discussing pride:] There is no fault which makes a man more unpopular, and no fault which we are more unconscious of in ourselves. And the more we have it in ourselves, the more we dislike it in others.²

C. S. Lewis

BEFORE GOING ANY FURTHER, IS CHRIST ON THE THRONE?

If not, make sure He is!

MEMORY VERSE

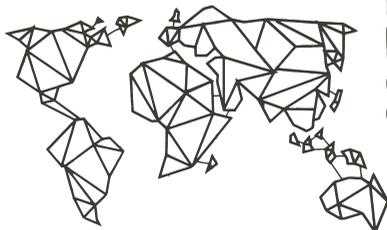
...humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time...

1 Peter 5:6 [NIV]

JESUS LED IN HUMILITY

Leaders follow Jesus' example of humble leadership. Jesus taught that pride is sin (Jn. 7:22). Godly leaders must follow Christ's example of humility (Phil. 2:5-11). Joseph did just that and his humility and leadership capacity grew proportionally. "I cannot do it, but God will," was Joseph's attitude, recorded in Gen. 41:16. This attitude of humble dependence on God is the attitude every godly leader must lead with. Joseph was anything but humble earlier on in life, letting his vision get ahead of his humility (Gen. 37:2-11). God changed that, humbling him in great ways so that He could use him in great ways. Tozer described this process in the Christian leader's life stating, "It is doubtful whether God can bless a man greatly until He has hurt

**GREAT
COMMISSION
LEADERSHIP**
HOMEWORK
PACKET
FIFTEEN



³ A.W. Tozer, *The Root of the Righteous* (Cumbria, UK: OM Publishing, 1993), 132.

⁴ C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity* (San Francisco, CA: Harper Collins, 2001), 122.

⁵ Andrew Murray, *Humility: The Journey Toward Holiness* (Bloomington, MN: Bethany House Publisher, 2001), 49.

⁶ C.H. Spurgeon, *An All Around Ministry: Addresses to Ministers and Students* (BookAndSuchNW, 2009), Ch. 3, Kindle.

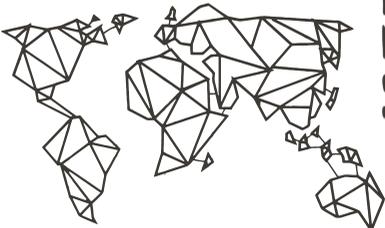
Notes:

him deeply.”³ This definitely held true for Joseph. Having been exiled from his family, sold into slavery, maliciously accused, wrongfully imprisoned, forgotten and left for dead, he could have become bitter and spiteful. Instead, he allowed God to refine him into the leader he was made to be. Joseph was such a powerful leader that he was put into positions of leadership in almost every circumstance he found himself; Potiphar’s household, the prison, and even as second in command of Egypt. Joseph had numerous leadership traits, including vision, boldness (Gen. 37:2-11), diligence, success, respect (Gen. 39:4, 21), strength (Gen. 39:6), integrity (Gen. 39:12), responsibility (Gen. 39:22), wisdom, strategic thinking (Gen. 41:33-40), authority (Gen. 41:44), administration (Gen. 41:46-49), compassion (Gen. 43:30), and more but his humility was the foundation for all of them.

Leaders who lead without humility will do more harm than good and will never accomplish the ministry God has for them. When a leader humbly grasps the reality that he cannot accomplish the vision God has for him, but only God can through him (as Joseph realized in Gen. 41:16), he will begin to experience Christ’s power and authority in ministry. Leaders must lead from a place of authentic humility. That begins with humbling ourselves, as this week’s memory verse commands. That will be the focus of this week’s homework.

LEADERSHIP REQUIRES HUMILITY

Leadership is the very place humility is critically important and often the last place you’ll find it. No one wants to follow a proud leader. Also, pride, in a Biblical sense, destroys the capacity for spiritual leadership (Is. 14:12-17). C.S. Lewis summarizes this, stating, “Unchastity, anger, greed, drunkenness, and all that, are mere fleabites in comparison. It was through pride that the devil became the devil. Pride leads to every other vice, it is the complete anti-God state of mind.”⁴ Christian leaders are rendered ineffective because of pride. Murray states, “...the absence of humility is no doubt the reason why the power of God cannot do its mighty work.”⁵ Spurgeon wrote, “It is to be hoped that vanity is rare in ministers, for vanity is the vice of novices, and may be sooner excused in young students than in actual teachers of the Word.”⁶ Godly leaders must lead humbly! Your capacity for leadership is directly proportional to your humility. For this reason, we conclude section one with this all important study of humility.





⁷ Andrew Murray, *Humility: The Journey Toward Holiness* (Bloomington, MN: Bethany House Publisher, 2001), 13.

⁷ Andrew Murray, *Humility: The Journey Toward Holiness* (Bloomington, MN: Bethany House Publisher, 2001), 73.

Notes:

→ **Do you really think you are proud? Why or why not?**

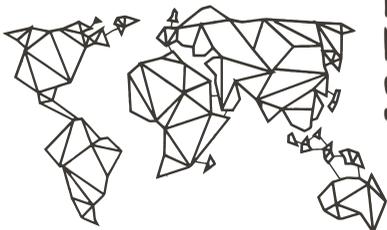
→ **Do you agree that humility is required for spiritual leadership? Why or why not?**

PRIDE DEFINED

Pride is thinking of yourself differently than God thinks of you. Spurgeon stated, "Humility is the proper estimate of oneself."⁷ Murray says, "Being occupied with self, even having the deepest self-
abhorrence, can never free us from self."⁸ Rom. 12:3 says, "Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you." Disagreeing with God is believing your own opinion over His and that is pride. That includes disagreeing with God about the person He has made you to be in Him, for the purpose He created you for. God has given you many different gifts and abilities. Thinking of yourself as a nobody is disagreeing with God and that is pride. Similarly, thinking of yourself as anything because of yourself is pride. We must share Paul's humble perspective, "But by the grace of God I am what I am" (1 Cor. 15:10). Without Christ you are nothing, and in Christ your only worth comes from Him. You are His child, securely saved, loved eternally, accepted, being conformed to His character, and He has a huge purpose for your life.

→ **How have you thought lowly of who you are in Christ?**

→ **Does the above definition of pride surprise you? Why or why not?**



⁸ C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*
(San Francisco, CA: Harper
Collins, 2001), 122.

⁹ Andrew Murray, *Humility:
The Journey Toward Holiness*
(Bloomington, MN: Bethany
House Publisher, 2001).

Notes:

→ **How have you thought too highly of yourself?**

→ **How have you thought more highly of yourself than others
(remember Phil. 2:3)?**

YOU ARE PROUD

C.S. Lewis tells us:

If you want to find out how proud you are the easiest way is to ask yourself, 'How much do I like it when other people snub me, or refuse to take any notice of me, or shove their oar in, or patronize me, or show off?' The point is that each person's pride is in competition with everyone else's pride. It is because I wanted to be the big noise at the party that I am so annoyed at someone else being the big noise.⁸

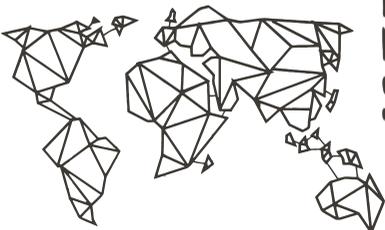
Most of us are keenly aware of our need to be needed. We earnestly seek the approval of men (remember the fault of the pharisees, Jn. 12:43). As Christian leaders it is easy to see how "advanced" we have become. Murray reminds us:

There is no pride so dangerous, so subtle and insidious, as the pride of holiness. It is not that a man ever says, or even thinks, 'Stay away. I am too sacred for you.' The thought would be considered ludicrous. But unconsciously there can develop a private habit of the soul that feels complacency in its attainments and cannot help but see how far it is ahead of others. It isn't always seen in self-assertion or self-praise but in the absence of self denial and modesty that reveals a lack of the mark of the soul that has seen the glory of God.⁹

The Christian leader who is walking intimately with Christ will exhibit humility in life, ministry, and leadership.

→ **List 3 recent examples of your pride.**

1.



¹⁰ Andrew Murray, *Humility: The Journey Toward Holiness* (Bloomington, MN: Bethany House Publisher, 2001).

Notes:

2.

3.

GOD HATES PRIDE

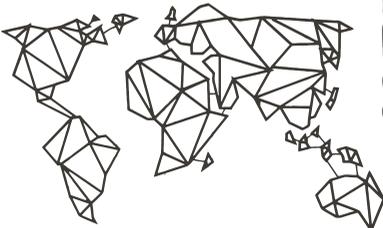
James 4:6 and 1 Pet. 5:5 (specifically in the context of ministry) tell us that God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. If you are proud in ministry God will oppose you. That's the gravity of this issue. If you are humble in ministry He will bless you. The danger of pride is enormous. It will destroy you, your fellowship with God, your relationships with others, the abundant life, the purpose God has for you and the effect God desired you to have on others. Pride is our natural condition, humility is not. Pride leads to selfishness, fear, laziness, apathy, stubbornness, independence, anger, narcissism, meaninglessness, and disrespect. Humility leads to selflessness, courage, diligence, commitment, willingness, submission, peace, love, significance, and respect. Pride keeps you from being able to admit you were wrong while humility absolves you of the agony of such an admission. Pride will prevent you from becoming who God made you to be and accomplishing what He made you to do. Humility will assure you become who God made you to be and accomplish what He put you here for. Pride is too dangerous for God not to humble you. Murray notes:

Humility is the only soil in which virtue takes root; a lack of humility is the explanation of every defect and failure. Humility is not so much a virtue along with the others but is the root of all, because it alone takes the right attitude before God and allows Him, as God, to do all.¹⁰

He will discipline you, humbling you in order that He can bless you (Heb. 12:6-13).

→ **How has your pride hurt you in the past?**

→ **How has it hurt others?**



Notes:

→ Really, just how destructive is your pride? Give 3 examples.

1.

2.

3.

JESUS AND HUMILITY

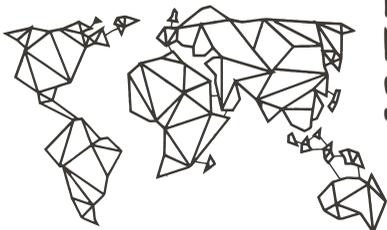
Jesus is our example of leadership. He is also our example of humility. Godly leaders must follow Christ's example of leadership and also His example of humility. Phil. 2:6-11 describes Jesus' example of humility, stating:

...who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

→ What sticks out to you about Christ's humility from this passage?

→ How do you differ from that?

→ Read Phil. 2:5. How are you to emulate His example of humility?



Notes:

from humility. We'll call it, "The Upward Cycle": Humility leads to surrender which leads to humility which leads to surrender, and on, and on. The typical reaction of our flesh is to compartmentalize this process, allowing God control of only a few parts (ex. Sunday morning). This is natural to human nature and the essence of human religion. We should have no compartmentalized areas of control. Our time, talent, and treasure must be His alone.

The Christian life is a fully surrendered life (remember Mk. 12:30). Lord means Lord. A Christian cannot pick-and-choose what, when, and how to obey. Remember, He does not need you, your gifts, or your abilities. You are not His greatest gift to this world. Your image does not matter. Your will does not matter. You have no rights. You can not demand your way. Your opinions and point of view do not matter. If you fully surrender to Christ, you won't be liked (you're promised that in Jn. 15:18) and you will be persecuted (you're promised that in 2 Tim. 3:12). If you fully surrender to Christ, you will experience the abundant life in ways you didn't imagine were possible and your life purpose will be accomplished.

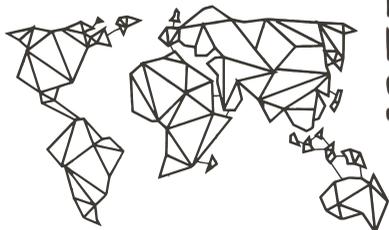
- **What areas have you kept from Christ's control (these are very likely the areas keeping you from greater effectiveness for Him)?**

- **How can you practically surrender those to Him today?**

- **Name the person you will share this with, who will keep you accountable.**

VICTORY OVER PRIDE

God desires to use the foolish, weak, lowly, and despised (1 Cor. 1:26-31)! If you want to be used mightily by God, you must allow Him to humble you continually. C.S. Lewis tells us that the first step towards humility, "...is to realize that one is proud. And a biggish step too. At least, nothing whatever can be done before it. If you think you are not



¹² C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity* (San Francisco, CA: Harper Collins, 2001), 128.

¹³ C.S. Lewis, *The Complete C.S. Lewis Signature Classics* (San Francisco, CA: Harper Collins Books, 2002), 118.

¹⁴ Andrew Murray, *Humility: The Journey Toward Holiness* (Bloomington, MN: Bethany House Publisher, 2001), 97.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁶ *Ibid.*

Notes:

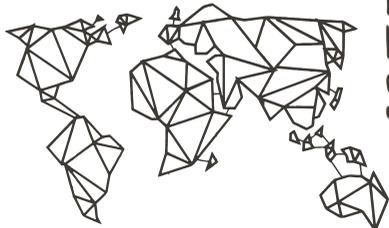
conceited, it means you are very conceited indeed.”¹² He clarifies, “Until you have given up your self to Him you will not have a real self.”¹³ Murray says two things are needed for humility, “Do what God says to do: Humble yourself. Trust Him to do what He says He will do: Exalt you.”¹⁴ He also encourages us:

*The command is clear. But to humble yourself does not mean that you must conquer and cast out the pride of your nature and then form in yourself the lowliness of Jesus. No, this is God’s work. He lifts you up into the true likeness of His son. What the command does mean is this: take every opportunity to humble yourself before God and man. In the faith of the grace that is already working in you; in the assurance of the grace for the victory that is yet to be; stand persistently under the unchanging command: humble yourself. Accept with gratitude everything that God allows from within or without, from friend or enemy, in nature or in grace, to remind you of your need for humbling and to help you in it. Reckon humility to be the mother-virtue, your very first duty before God, the one perpetual safeguard of the soul, and set your heart upon it as the source of all blessing.*¹⁵

We must present ourselves as empty vessels in which God can dwell and manifest His power and goodness (2 Cor. 4:7). Where God has come in His power and revealed Himself, the vessel becomes nothing. The humble person has intimacy with God and experiences God’s working in their life mightily. The humbling cycle makes you more Christ like. This process is the foundation for fellowship with God and for the working of His power. A proud person cannot be close to Him. A proud vessel cannot be a conduit of His power. It must be emptied before it can be used. In grace, He chooses to use you when you love Him and focus on glorifying Him in humility. Humility must be the focus of prayer and desire. We must seek humility—it is seeking Christ-likeness. Ask God for humility. Murray concludes:

*True humility comes when before God we see ourselves as nothing, have put aside self and let God be all. The soul that has done this and can say, “I have lost myself in finding you,” and no longer compares itself with others. It has given up forever any thought of self in God’s presence; it meets its fellow man as one who is nothing and seeks nothing for itself; who is a servant of God and for His sake is a servant of all.*¹⁶

→ **How important is it that you fully surrender to God and His process of making you humble?**



¹⁷ Andrew Murray, *Humility: The Journey Toward Holiness* (Bloomington, MN: Bethany House Publisher, 2001), 91.

¹⁸ A.W. Tozer, *The Root of the Righteous* (Cumbria, UK: OM Publishing, 1993), 64.

¹⁹ L.E. Maxwell, "The Cross Day by Day," <http://articles.ochristian.com/article2658.shtml> (accessed January 24, 2013).

²⁰ Andrew Murray, *Humility: The Journey Toward Holiness* (Bloomington, MN: Bethany House Publisher, 2001), 53.

Notes:

→ **What would keep you from that?**

DYING TO YOUR SELF

This process of being humbled and dying to self is painful but needed. Murray tells us:

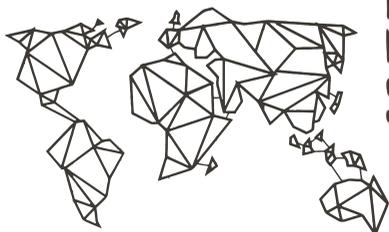
Many Christians fear and flee and seek deliverance from all that would humble them. At times they may pray for humility but in their heart of hearts they pray even more to be kept from the things that would bring them to that place.¹⁷

The things that will bring you to that place are the things God will use to destroy your pride. The process of being humbled requires dying to self. Tozer described the godless condition of the church, stating:

In every Christian's heart, there is a cross and a throne, and the Christian is on the throne till he puts himself on the cross. If he refuses the cross he remains on the throne. Perhaps this is at the bottom of the backsliding and worldliness among believers today. We want to be saved, but insist Christ do all the dying.¹⁸

Humility requires denying self and taking up Christ's cross daily (Lk. 9:23). L. E. Maxwell tells us, "The daily cross, something which is to be the instrument of disgrace and execution is whatever gives occasion for ever deeper test of self surrender."¹⁹ It will take unpleasant circumstances and people around you to be truly crucified. When people get on our nerves we must remember Murray's challenge, "It is easy to think that we humble ourselves before God, but our humility toward others is the only sufficient proof that our humility before God is real."²⁰

Becoming "completely humble" (Eph. 4:2), requires living a surrendered life, crucified with Christ (Gal. 2:20). Practice dying to self (there are things you can cut off, Jer. 4:4). Practice surrendering entertainment; social media; food (through fasting); sleeping in; negotiating with the alarm; free time; unhealthy relationships; your identity; your gifts and talents; your hopes, dreams, and desires (even good ones); and the rest of your life (your plans for the future). God desires that you lay down everything in order to magnify Him with your life. That requires dying to yourself daily and living only for His glory (1 Cor. 10:31).



Notes:

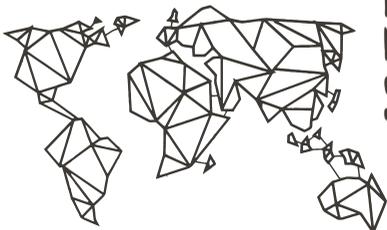
→ How can you apply Jesus' statements in Mt. 10:38-39, 16:24-25, Mr. 8:34-35, Lk. 9:23-24 & 17:33?

→ How do you need to die to self today?

ONE DAY AT A TIME

You can't humble yourself on your own. Like the rest of the Christian life, everything flows from your intimacy with Him (Jn. 15:5). The more time you spend with Him the more you'll become like Him and that includes the area of humility. The closer you grow to Him, the more you'll find John the Baptist's desire becoming your own: "He must become greater; I must become less" (Jn. 3:30 NIV). He is the one who will develop humility into your life, as you allow. Keep your eyes on Him, allowing Him to develop you (Heb. 12:1-2). Remember, your capacity for leadership is directly proportional to your humility. Your ability to do all God has called you to do will grow as you allow Him to humble you.

Remember, your weaknesses, inabilities, failures and past present no challenge to God's will for your life. Your willingness does. Be willing to be and do what God made you for. You don't have what it takes but God's Spirit in you does so be the leader He made you to be and turn this world upside down for Him!



Notes:

ACT NOW

HUMBLE YOURSELF

This might hurt, but trust God and go for it!

Pray. Ask God, right now, to humble you and make you like Him whatever it takes. Be forewarned, this is a dangerous prayer that will be answered. That is a good thing though! Be excited about becoming who He made you to be.

→ **Result:**

Think of a relationship your pride has hurt. Contact that person and ask their forgiveness. Do this from the heart.

→ **Result:**

Think of something you're doing for the wrong motives. Evaluate whether you should continue, and if so decide how you'll honor God alone with this.

→ **Result:**

Think of an area of ministry that has scared you, something you don't feel good at. Do it. Be O.K. with not being the best at something. Don't let your insecurities keep you from what God has for you.

→ **Result:**

How do you need to humble yourself in relation to someone who is in a position of authority over you? Do it.

→ **Result:**

How do you need to humble yourself in relation to someone who is serving along side you? Do it.

→ **Result:**

How do you need to humble yourself in relation to someone who you are leading? Do it.

→ **Result:**

