

## **MODULE OBJECTIVES:**

1. To equip you with the unseen ideals and the non-negotiable traits that guide people of Christ-like character, including humility, faithfulness, forgiveness, courage, integrity, loyalty, diligence, gratitude, compassion, and patience
2. You will learn how to tap into the power to always do the right thing.
3. You will learn to stay in a place with God where the anointing on your lives can flow and bring the unseen riches of the Kingdom of God to those around you.

## **CHRIST-LIKE CHARACTER**

### **RECAP**

#### **SECTION ONE**

##### ***I. Introduction***

- A. The struggle for character
- B. Honorable character comes from God.
- C. Character matters!
- D. The English word “virtue” derives from the Latin word for strength (“virtus”).
- E. We fear (reverence or highly honor) God by living life as He directs.
- F. Making the virtuous choice is always a walk of faith – we must believe that God will see us through and make everything turn out for our good.
- G. The virtues of humility, faithfulness, forgiveness, courage, integrity, loyalty, diligence, gratitude, compassion, and patience are the pillars of your Christian life.

##### ***II. Humility: The First of the Virtues***

###### **A. Humility defined**

1. “A freedom from arrogance that grows out of the recognition that all we have and are, comes from God.” – *Nelson’s New Illustrated Bible Dictionary*
2. Scripture equates humility with lowliness of mind and meekness.
  - a. Meekness is the opposite of self-assertiveness, self-interest, and pride.
  - b. It stems from trust in God’s goodness, in His ability to defend and provide for us, and even to bring good out of evil for us if necessary.
  - c. The meek person desires the will of God above his own will – Matt. 6:10.
  - d. The meek person is not pre-occupied with self.

###### **B. Humility is exemplified in the life of Jesus Christ.**

1. Although He was God, He became the “servant of all” – Phil. 2:5-7.

2. Jesus humbled Himself further to die on the cross – Phil. 2:8-9.
3. Jesus instructs us to learn humility from Him – Matt. 11:29; John 13:14-15.

**C. Humility is not shame or condemnation for sin.**

1. Sin consciousness is a snare of the devil, a lie against the Scriptures which declare we have been made the righteousness of God in Christ – 2 Cor. 5:21; Phil. 3:9.
2. Humility is the one indispensable condition of true fellowship with our Lord.

**D. True humility includes agreeing with God concerning all that He says about us.**

1. It is not arrogance to believe God when He says we are blessed (Deut. 28:6,13), we are a new creation (2 Cor. 5:17), and we are more than conquerors (Rom 8:37).

**E. “Humility, the place of entire dependence on God, is the first duty and the highest virtue of man.....which comes when we see how truly God is all, and in which we make way for God to be all” (Andrew Murray, *Humility*, 10,12).**

1. “Jesus came to bring humility back to earth, to make us partakers of it, and by it to save us. In heaven, He humbled Himself to become man. The humility we see in Him, He possessed in heaven: it brought Him, and He brought it, from there” (Murray 11).
2. “Man’s chief care....and his only happiness, now and through all eternity, is to present himself as an empty vessel in which God can dwell and manifest His power and goodness” (Murray 10).

**F. Our humility before God is measured by our daily lives with our fellow men.**

1. The humble man seeks at all times to live by the Scriptures: “in honor preferring one another”; “serve one another”; “each esteeming others better than himself”; “submitting yourselves one to another.”
2. “The humble man looks upon every child of God – even the feeblest and unworthiest – and honors him and prefers him in honor as the son of a King. The spirit of Him who washed the disciples’ feet makes it a joy to us to be indeed the least, to be servants one of another” (Murray 46).
3. The humble man overcomes jealousy and envy. “He can praise God when others are preferred and blessed before him. He can bear to hear others praised and himself forgotten, because in God’s presence he has learned to say with Paul, “I am nothing” (2 Cor. 12:11). He has received the spirit of Jesus, who pleased not Himself and sought not His own honor, as the spirit of his life” (Murray 46-47).

4. We prove our Christ-likeness in forbearing with and forgiving one another.

**G. Instruction in humility from the Scriptures**

1. Be teachable.
  - a. Come as a little child – Matt. 18:2-4; Psalm 131:1-3.
  - b. Solomon humbled himself and asked God for wisdom to rule God’s people – 2 Chron. 1:9-12.
  - c. Moses was called the meekest man on the face of the earth – Num. 12:3.
    - 1) Again and again, when faced with a problem, Moses fell on his face and sought the Lord for a solution – Num. 14:4-5; 16:3-4, 44-45; 20:6.
2. Trust God to deal with your enemies.
  - a. David knew God was his shield and protector. – Ps. 3:1-5.
  - b. Jesus trusted Himself to God – John 8:59; 10:39; Luke 4:30; 1 Pet. 2:21-23.
3. Do not return evil for evil – 1 Peter 3:9.
  - a. Turn the other cheek – Matt. 5:39; Rom. 12:19.
  - b. “We must learn to put aside our own feelings and human reasonings and just be obedient to the Lord. Jesus was telling us if we will turn the other cheek in meekness and in the power of the honor of God, we cannot be hit again” (Copeland 8).
  - c. “Even if others mistreat and abuse you, God will support you. They cannot steal from you fast enough to harm you. God will provide for you because of His honor” (Copeland 35).
4. Prefer others – Phil. 2:3; Col. 3:12.
5. Give respect to employers – 1 Pet. 2:18-19.
  - a. You will be an influence on your superior and may even win him to the Lord.
  - b. Believe God – and then act like you believe!

**H. Passing the test**

1. “Let us take each of these Scriptures as the promise of what God will work in us, what the Spirit of Jesus will give as a birth within us. And let each failure and shortcoming simply urge us to turn humbly and meekly to the

meek and lowly Lamb of God. Have full assurance that where He is enthroned in the heart, His humility and gentleness will be one of the streams of living water that flow from within us ” (Murray 48-49).

2. As we grow in humility, we see other believers, who once hindered and annoyed us, as now beneficial to us - catalysts to our spiritual growth.
  - a. “Let us look on every brother or sister who tries or vexes us as God’s means of grace, as God’s instrument for our purification, for our exercise of the humility of Jesus, our life, who breathes within us. And let us have such faith in the ‘all of God’ and the nothing of self, that we may, in God’s power, seek only to serve one another in love” (Murray 50).

**I. Meditate - and grow in humility.**

*Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself (Phil. 2:3).*

*Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience (Col. 3:12 NIV).*

*“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me... for without Me you can do nothing” (John 15:4-5b).*

**J. Promises to the humble man or woman:**

1. **Answered prayer** - O Lord, You have heard the desire of the humble; You will strengthen their heart, You will incline Your ear (Ps. 10:17 NASB).

The humble will see their God at work and be glad. Let all who seek God’s help be encouraged (Ps. 69:32 NLT).

2. **Guidance** - The humble He guides in justice, and the humble He teaches His way (Psalm 25:9)
3. **Abundance of peace** - But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace (Ps. 37:11).
4. **Grace** - Surely He scorns the scornful: but He gives grace to the humble (Prov. 3:34).

But He gives more grace. Therefore He says, “God resists the proud, but gives grace unto the humble” (James 4:6).

5. **Riches, honor, and life** - The reward of humility and the reverent and worshipful fear of the Lord is riches and honor and life (Prov. 22:4 AMP).

And whoever exalts himself will be humbled; and he who humbles himself will be exalted (Matt. 23:12).

Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up (James 4:10).

6. **Joy** - The meek also shall increase their joy in the Lord, and the poor among men shall rejoice in the Holy One of Israel (Isa. 29:19).