

In light of all this...

**1. We must humble ourselves before God. 1 Pet. 5:5-6** “All of you clothe yourselves with humility toward one another because **“God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble.”** 6. Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you at the proper time” All of us are called to a life of mutual service. That is the status that Christ has given us.

Definition: Humility is a sober assessment of oneself; a clear-minded appraisal of one’s abilities and limitations or status.

**Why is out of control arrogance a problem? It leads to emptiness and the total collapse of our lives.**

**No one’s life is emptier than the person who is full of themselves. This is a problem. Because we were made to be filled with the glorious presence of our God.** To be filled with the Spirit. To be overflowing in his joy and the hope he brings.

**What Humility is NOT:**

**Humility is not false-modesty.** It is not devaluing that which is valuable. It does not denigrate or defame that which deserving of praise; or treat as worthless that which is worthy of honor. So I want to say firstly, there is a kind of false humility which is an overreaction to the warnings against arrogance and the pride of life and the collapse of a human life that happens.

**The vast majority of times the NT uses the word pride it is in a positive sense (Rom. 11:13; 2 Cor. 5:2; 2 Cor. 7:14; James 1:9).**

- **Rom. 11:13**—Paul takes “pride” in his ministry among the Gentiles.
- **2 Cor. 5:2**—Paul pleads with the Corinthians to take pride in their apostolic ministry, so that they can refute those who have a misplaced pride in material things.
- **2 Cor. 7:14**—Paul is proud of the Corinthians for their response to his earlier correction.
- **James 1:9**—Tells us that believers in humble circumstances should take pride in their high position.

**The pride that God rejects is when you and I have an inflated judgment of our abilities, capacities and value. The Scripture says, that this kind of out-of-control pride means to “think of ourselves more highly than we ought to.”**

**Used in this sense, Pride is incredibly destructive.** John tells us that it is one of the three root sins that corrupts human life.

**Destructive pride**

**1 Jn 2:16** “For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride in one’s possessions—is not from the Father, but is from the world.”

- We humble ourselves in submission.
- We humble ourselves as leaders, caring for and shepherding the flock of God.
- We patiently wait for God to promote us, to advance us, to exalt us in resurrection glory.

## **2. We must cast our cares on the Lord.** <sup>7</sup>“casting all your cares on him, because he cares about you.”

The word “casting” here means to throw something from one place to another. The word for casting one’s nets into the sea to fish. It was used metaphorically meaning, “to transfer one’s concerns; to cast them upon someone else.”

**Ps 55:22** “Cast your burden on the Lord, and he will sustain you; he will never allow the righteous to be shaken.”

“all”= the word “all” here means “every last one; not one left; withholding none.”

“cares” is the same word Jesus used in the parable of the sower. “the pressing concerns of this life” Some of the seeds that were sown on the ground fell on a type of soil that was filled with weeds and wildflowers. As the seed of the Gospel began to grow, the “cares” of this world—the pressing and overwhelming concerns of this life choked off the life of that growing faith.

**Why do we practice casting our cares onto the Lord?** It’s very simple.

- The alternative is a life consumed by worry over things you cannot control. The vast majority of things we have no say over.
- Because Jesus cares for you—you have a kind and gentle pastor of your soul who invites you exchange your burden for his. **Matt. 11:28-29** “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup>Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup>For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” There are certain burdens in life that are not yours to bear. Like your sin. Or other people’s choices. Why does Jesus say the yoke is “easy”? Nothing we’re carrying is easy—not for us. But for him?

**How do we cast our concerns onto the Lord, the shepherd of our souls?**

- It takes humility to let go of things we should not and cannot carry. That’s why we must walk humbly before our God.
- We practice the disciplines of grace: daily prayer; the Word; community; repentance. I don’t anybody who is cultivating a life of prayer, renewing the mind in Christ’s truth, engaging in the encouragement of Christian community; and whose heart is broken before the Lord in repentance—I don’t know anyone who is diligent in doing all that who is eat up with worry. These two things are allergic to each other.
- We name those cares and call them out—and give them up to God. God has called you to throw yourself at His mercy, to cast your burdens onto him. **Ps 94:18-19** “If I say, ‘My foot is slipping,’ your faithful love will support me, Lord. <sup>19</sup>When I am filled with cares, your comfort brings me joy.”

You may be here and are carrying a weight of concerns and think, “Does anyone care about these burdens? Does know?”

**God cares. God knows. And God invites us to exchange our sorrows for his joy. To exchange our uncertainty about the future for his assurance. God invites us to transfer our burdens to the only one who can carry them. Christ.**

**3. Be alert and resist the devil.** “Be sober-minded, be alert. Your adversary the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for anyone he can devour. <sup>9</sup> Resist him, firm in the faith, knowing that the same kind of sufferings are being experienced by your fellow believers throughout the world.”

**Definition:** The Adversary; the Slanderer; an Angel of Light

**His work:** He opposes the purposes of God in the world; He slanders and maligns the character of God’s people through false or half-true accusations; and he deceives people into believing lies and half-truths.

**The Opposition:** The church faces today the opposition on every front. Legally, morally, culturally. From every major institution: The Academy, the Entertainment Industry, the Political sphere. You name it, Satan is at work to oppose the efforts of the Gospel in the world today.

**The key to resisting is being alert. Not being spiritually asleep.** Now Peter is not on his high horse. He knows exactly what it’s like to quite literally sleep through a prayer meeting that he should have been awake for. Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus has to wake them up and say, “Pray so that you will not fall into temptation.” But they don’t and they do. Peter denies the Lord.

**Video: Wayne Cordeiro video.**

The Chinese Church member says, “Someday, we want to be like you.” Meaning, “We want China to be able to worship freely like you do in America.” And Wayne’s response is ironic. No one would welcome the oppression, lack of freedom, and persecution that the church is facing in China. “We want to be like you—that American Christians would have the urgency of devotion that you have to Jesus. That American Christians would wake up.”

**Peter said in 1 Peter 4:19** “Show hospitality without complaining.” Welcome the other, those who don’t look, think, or act like you—show hospitality and do it without grumbling and griping and being generally cantankerous.

**Paul said to the Philippians 2:14** “Do everything without complaining or arguing, <sup>15</sup> so that you may become blameless and pure, ‘children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.’”

**So how do we emulate the urgent faith and devotion of our brothers and sisters in China.**

**What is the antidote to spiritual lethargy?**

- **We need to resist the temptation to complain about “first-world” problems.** Now, I can’t begin to tell you how blessed our staff and elders have been by the vast majority of you—your attitudes in terms of patience and helpfulness, for the most part, have been outstanding. And encouraging. But if you find yourself getting bent out of shape because an usher is trying to seat you—just know that the usher is helping us to manage the capacity of this room—and everyone just seats themselves there’s

no way we can manage our capacity. If you're annoyed that you have to come in and leave with your mask on—our leadership team is intent on making a good faith effort to obey 1 Peter 2:13 and Rom 13—comply with the God-ordained authorities in our region. And so we ask you to check yourself.

- **We need to focus on humbling ourselves and caring for one another.** This whole passage is about being humble, casting our anxieties on Jesus, and being alert. Alertness is possible when we focus on living with a heart of humble service to Jesus.

Recap:

**(1) Are we clothing ourselves in humility: taking the status of servants to God and servants of others?**

**(2) Are we daily practicing the disciplines of casting our cares; and caring for one another?**

**(3) Are we alert, sober-minded, resisting the temptation to become grumpy, faultfinding people who just complain about 1<sup>st</sup> world inconveniences?**

### **Worship Team Returns: Prayer**

**Communion:** For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, <sup>24</sup> **and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.”** <sup>25</sup> In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” <sup>26</sup> For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

<sup>27</sup> So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. <sup>28</sup> Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. <sup>29</sup> For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves. <sup>30</sup> That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep. <sup>31</sup> But if we were more discerning with regard to ourselves, we would not come under such judgment. <sup>32</sup> Nevertheless, when we are judged in this way by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be finally condemned with the world.

**Benediction:** <sup>10</sup> And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. <sup>11</sup> To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.