

SUBMISSION & HUMILITY

“Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for ‘God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.’” I Peter 5:5 (ESV)

At the time of the Last Supper, Jesus “got up from the meal and took off his outer clothes. He wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a large bowl. Then he began to wash his disciples’ feet. He dried them with the towel that was wrapped around him.”

John 13:3-5 (NIRV)

A famous Missourian, Mark Twain, is credited with saying: “Clothes make the man. Naked people have little or no influence on society.” What in the world is he saying?

Consider your own wardrobe. What is your favorite outfit for lounging with friends at home? For going to school or work? For a formal dinner? For coming to church?

Do you have a particular outfit or accessory that makes you feel good when you wear it? What is it and why does it have that effect for you?

Do you agree or disagree with Twain’s statement? Do clothes make the man? Why so?

More importantly, do the “clothes” we wear say anything about the inner man/woman? If so, how so?

What is “*humility*”?

What does it mean to be “*clothed with humility*?” (I Peter 5:5). Why does Peter use this “clothing” analogy? Is he really talking about what we wear on our bodies, or something else?

Now, let’s do a longer reading to put I Peter 5:5 in its larger context. As a group take a few minutes to read out loud I Peter 2:13-3:7.

Peter talks about submission. What is “submission”?

List the various areas of life where Peter encourages us to submit to others:

I Peter 2:13-17 _____

I Peter 2:18-25 _____

I Peter 3:1-6 _____

I Peter 3:7 _____

I Peter 5:5a _____

What is the *main message* Peter wants us to learn and apply from these readings?

As you consider the various areas of life where Peter calls us to be humble and submissive, where are you most challenged and why?

Let's talk about the elephant in the room. There are some really hard teachings here. Focus especially on I Peter 2:18b-19; then 3:1 & 6; then 2:23. Remember Michael's first lesson from I Peter was about being willing to *suffer* with and for Jesus. Why so?

What was going on among these early Christians that caused Peter to tell them they should be willing to *submit* even when those in authority treat them harshly? How could that possibly advance the cause of Christ?

How might we apply that teaching in our own lives? At New Heights Christian Church?

Peter suggests that our outer clothing and adornment can be an important reflection of our inner person. Read again I Peter 3:3-5. What does this mean as a practical matter?

Close by discussing what it *really* means to be clothed with humility? Identify some areas of life where you need to take care of prideful attitudes and actions and clothe yourself instead with humility.