

GROWING DOWNWARD



"Humility is not produced by losing sight of our self but by properly perceiving our self as we relate to God and others."

"The profound lowliness of humility together with the profound reverence of fear liberate us to love profoundly."

"We are not free to live as we please. At every point we are related to God as both Creator and covenant Lord. And His naked word has absolute authority over us."

"God lulls us to sleep each night in order to deliver us from our self-deifying propensities. Every evening as we lay our heads to rest, He graciously confronts us with our creaturely finitude."

"While our creatureliness is the ultimate reality impelling us to lowliness (existential humility), our corruption beckons us lower still (ethical humility)."

"Before anyone murders or commits adultery or lies or steals or takes God's name in vain, they first assume they are not creatures. We deceive ourselves into believing that we are the lords of our own existence, that we are free to do as we please, and that we know better than our Creator."

"Exalting self leads to dehumanizing others."

"The Son did not become man because He was humble; He became humble because He was man. Perfect humanity entails perfect humility."

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"The humble not only affirm God's love for sinners in general, but they see themselves before God's hidden counsel. Having exercised faith in the Son of God and having received salvation, they come to grasp that such faith and salvation are the result of a foreloving God who possesses an affection toward them that transcends time."

"Gospel humility cries with adoring intensity, 'Ladies and gentlemen, I am nothing; you are nothing; Jesus is everything, everything, everything!' Christ is everything in the arrangement of salvation. Christ is everything in the accomplishment of salvation. Christ is everything in the application of salvation. Truly, Christ is all in all!"

"If you are a believer in the Lord Jesus, this is how you ought to perceive yourself: an eternally loved child of God, justified and sanctified in Christ Jesus, to the praise of your Father's glory."

"God's lowly people are devoted to His book. 'Give us the word!' is their ardent cry."

"When suffering is sanctified to a church, it will cease boasting in its accomplishments or attainments or experiences or abilities. It will begin to boast in those things that make it weak because it recognizes that Christ's resurrection power is manifested through the cross."

"The great need of the church in every age is Christ-exalting humility. To the degree the church possesses this, it will be alive and advancing with vigor. To the degree the church lacks this virtue, it will be lethargic and on its way to the grave."