



Christian Chronicle

A publication to inspire young ladies in their walk of faith

Vol. 2, Issue 5

“HUMILITY/DYING TO SELF”

Fall 2005

Please understand that I am far from perfect in any area that I have written about, do write about, or include in the publication. All the articles and various content are as much for me as for any other girl! As Paul said, “Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after...I press toward the mark...” (Philippians 3:12,14). ~Karissa ©

Features this Issue:

- Lacey Klump, Elizabeth Perron, Lisa Bode: Humility
- Review: The Jewel of Humility—Denny Kenaston
- Lara Bode: How to Develop a Humble Spirit
- Mrs. Valerie Ellis: A Biblical View of Self
- Review: Humility—Andrew Murray
- New Section: Timeless Truths
- Mrs. Zakula: Self-Pity
- Prose: Dying to Self
- And More!

Editorial Column

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ! I pray that you would be blessed through the tenth issue of the Christian Chronicle.

I am sorry to have changed the issue’s theme without notice, but such arrangements were necessary at the last moment. Lord willing, next issue will be “Christian Living”. I hope you will enjoy this issue, “Humility/Dying to Self.” The secret of Christ-likeness is humility, which is the root of all virtues. As I compiled this issue, I was deeply blessed by the articles from www.thekingsdaughtermag.com. I was reminded again of my own lack of humility, but also that the Lord is absolutely omnipotent—able even to humble me! I recommend to everyone Andrew Murray’s Humility, an EXCELLENT book.

Timeless Truths is a new section for you to contribute to. Please consider submitting a testimony, meaningful verse, thought, etcetera. You can send your submissions to me by mail (Box 422, Morden, MB R6M 1A5) or by email (see “About Us” below). ❖

Karissa

About Us

Co-edited by my parents, this publication is edited and published by Karissa Hiebert. Contact me at freewebs.com/christianchronicle/contact.htm. ❖

Featured Articles

All articles in this section this issue are taken from www.thekingsdaughtermag.com

Humility

Lacey Klump, Elizabeth Perron, & Lisa Bode

Galatians 2:20 says, “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me...” Have you ever pondered this verse and wondered what it really means? How can we be crucified with Christ and still live?

The old man – our self, our sinful nature – has been put to death, but the new man is living. This verse presents a beautiful picture of one who has completely emptied herself of everything. It is after this emptying, like the pouring out of a jar, that Christ comes in to fill the space, and works through her to reach those around her. This is only possible by means of a difficult but important quality: humility.

Humility recognizes that God is responsible for our achievements. It’s so easy to think that it is because of our talents, spiritual maturity, good character, etc., that we achieve what we do in life. Humility is realizing that without Christ we would be nothing. The help of others has also been crucial in our reaching the level we have.

This does not mean that we are to hate ourselves and think that we are something terrible. It means that we are to give constant thanks to God for delivering us from our sin – even considering us worth the life of His Son! – and always remembering that without Him, we are nothing.

1 Cor. 4:7^b reads, “and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?” This verse is asking us what we have to glory in, since everything is given to us by God. We have no reason to be proud of our attainments or performances; all that we have, are, and do that is good is because of the rich and free grace we receive from God.

True humility comes when we turn ourselves over to God. We cannot be filled with self; we must turn our selfish desires over to the Father in order to develop humility. Humility is losing the desire for self to be foremost, and instead thinking about others. A grateful, humble heart is vital for a servant of the Most High.

One of Christ’s last lessons here on earth was to teach his disciples humility. When Jesus the King of Kings got down on His knees to wash the feet of His disciples – lowly sinners – that was the ultimate example of true humility. Jesus must have thought a humble spirit was quite important – something He surely wanted us to remember.

Jesus’ life was one of humility. “But [He] made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”– Phil. 2:7-8. If Jesus was humble, I want to be humble, too. Don’t you?

Often when people hear the word “humility”, they immediately think of a weak person. They think of someone who is shy, can’t really make decisions for herself, and is a bit insecure. But really, a humble person is strong, in the sense that she has the strength to overcome the power of the flesh – the power of pride. Humility requires great strength of character, and thus few Christians have it!

A person who is humble has a submissive spirit. This spirit shows itself in

cheerful cooperation and obedience. Humility is also shown by submitting to instruction and having a teachable spirit. We can show humility by serving and honoring one another. Often it is our pride that makes us resent being told what to do or having to serve. A humble person is anxious to learn and help! Humility will result in action.

The parable of the Pharisee and the publican (Luke 18:9-14) exemplifies the contrast between pride and humility. When two men went to the temple to pray, the Pharisee thought only of himself: how good he must seem, the brownie points he had earned, etc. The lowly publican thought of how unworthy he – a sinner – was to come and beg mercy from God Almighty. What a lesson of humility to us all!

The Bible is brimming with stories of saints clothed with Christ's humility, all of them put there for our benefit. "...God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble." – James 4:6. And God admonishes us to walk humbly with Him (Micah 6:8). I was rather surprised at how many verses there are about humility and pride. Each day as you read your Bible, notice the many examples of humility.

Humility doesn't come without making an effort! Ask the Lord continually in faith to give you His humility. Look for opportunities to serve, learn, and show gratefulness. Give up all of your own desires, and Christ will become alive in you, making your actions and countenance reflect His humility.

"And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted." – Matthew 23:12. ✨

How to Develop a Humble Spirit

Lara Bode

Many people are frightened by the concept of acquiring a humble spirit. Their thoughts are, "After all, aren't humble people always putting themselves down? Aren't they the ones with terrible self-esteem? If I don't work to build myself up, I won't be important." Not true! Someone who has a humble spirit recognizes the special privilege of her status as a servant of the Lord. Being humble does not mean putting yourself down or having terrible self-esteem. To put it simply, having a humble spirit means viewing yourself the

way God views you – having no good in and of yourself, but being worth the life of His Son and now made a child of God! Scripture instructs us to humble ourselves. James chapter four is an excellent passage which talks about a humble spirit; verse 10 says "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He shall lift you up."

Believe me, the Lord can certainly do a better job "lifting you up" than you could do on your own! Others do not appreciate your pride when you strive to build yourself up. But if you are recognized as a humble person, God will lift you up. People will notice how the Lord blesses one who obeys Him. "God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble." - James 4:6^b.

What are some practical ways to develop a humble spirit? God is faithful to give us adequate instruction in regard to how to obey His commands. By studying the Scriptures, you can find many ways to develop a humble spirit; following are some of these ways.

1.) Submit to Authorities

Placing yourself willingly under the authority of your parents (or husband, for those of you who are married), as well as your other authorities, is not only a great way to humble yourself, but it is also commanded by Scripture! "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God." - Romans 13:1.

Have you noticed how few teenagers willingly submit to their parents, and how few wives willingly submit to their husbands? The attitude of most people who do not submit to authority is "I know better than you do" or "you have no right to be over me"! This is clearly pride. Cheerfully submitting to your authorities, out of honor and obedience to the Lord, is an essential attribute if you wish to acquire a humble spirit.

2.) Admit Faults

This is also a command from the Bible! "Confess your faults one to another, and pray for one another..." - James 5:16.

Now obviously, admitting your faults needs to be kept in perspective. It is not pleasant to be around someone who is constantly putting herself down or talking about all her faults! But most of you

probably have the opposite problem – like me, you don't want to admit your faults.

"Admitting faults" is different from admitting that you have any faults. I think all of you would be very willing to admit that you have not yet achieved perfection, and thus you have faults! Very few people are not willing to admit this.

But admitting specific faults – or not arguing when others point them out – is a great deal more difficult. You would be amazed how much is accomplished toward forming a humble spirit when one admits and confesses to others that she struggles with pride. This is hard to do – especially since the proud "self" does not want to do it! But admitting that you struggle with a prideful attitude is one of the first steps in getting rid of it. Admitting faults, however, is not a "once and done" thing. Whenever you have done wrong, you need to be willing to admit it.

3.) Ask for Forgiveness

This goes right along with admitting faults. Asking someone to forgive you means asking them to clear your record and to not hold hard feelings against you because of the wrong you've done to them. It's a good idea to admit your fault to the one you've wronged, and then ask for forgiveness right afterward. (Example: "I am sorry I was impatient with you. Would you please forgive me?")

Always be sure to speak humbly when you ask for forgiveness! It is very important to avoid attitudes like "since you seem to think I was impatient, forgive me"; this is really a proud way of speaking, and will only succeed in irritating the one you have offended.

Sometimes I become offended when others wrong me, but if they admit that what they did was wrong, and ask me to forgive them, I appreciate their humility and forgive them. (Of course, you need to forgive people even if they do not admit that they are wrong or ask you for forgiveness.)

4.) Welcome Critics

"Whoso loveth instruction loveth knowledge: but he that hateth reproof is brutish." - Proverbs 12:1. It is no fun to receive criticism! But welcoming critics and listening carefully to what they have to say

is an excellent way to build a humble spirit. As you listen to the criticism they offer, you should look for truth in what they are saying and take it to heart, rather than looking for inaccurate things that they might say and arguing with it.

I have begun learning this as we've received letters from readers of *The King's Daughter*. Most of the letters that we receive are very sweet, but a few are critical. We have received a couple of critical letters which we feel were absolutely "right-on"; the writers showed a proper attitude, used gracious wording, and were right in their disagreement; but some of the critical letters either make points with which we do not agree, or use severe wording. It is difficult not to get upset over these letters! But Dad always challenges us to "look for the good" and find the part which is true and helpful if we utilize it.

The lesson here is that even in harsh and unreasonable criticism, there is almost always a statement that is at least partially true, and if you can find it and learn from it, then the criticism was worthwhile and can be used for the benefit of your character.

5.) Bless Those Who Curse You

"But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you." - Matthew 5:44. It is a proud and revengeful spirit which wants to return evil for evil. Even when you love your enemies, though, be sure to maintain a humble attitude, and avoid doing good with the motive of showing off how holy you are.

By humbly doing good and praying for your enemies, you are both obeying this Scriptural command and imitating the attitude of the Lord Jesus. When you bless non-Christian enemies in this way, it is an excellent testimony of Christ's love. Sometimes even other Christians persecute and speak ill of you; and in return you are to bless and do good to them.

A right attitude on your part is likely to reconcile you with your enemies, and even if it doesn't, you will have been above reproach in your attitudes and actions toward them.

6.) Kneel in Prayer

"O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our Maker." - Psalm 95:6. We are not commanded to get down on our knees each time we pray. However, I've found that kneeling in prayer somehow affects the attitude with which I pray. Kneeling is a position of humility, and it is helpful (although not mandatory) to get down on your knees and remember the difference in position between God in heaven, and you as His servant here on earth.

7.) Deflect Praise and Express Gratefulness

Deflecting praise is crediting others when you are praised. If a friend tells me that she likes my dress, I try to say something like, "Thank you! My sister picked out the material." If someone compliments me on my work with children, I might say, "Thanks! My mother is a great example for me." This keeps the praise from being focused solely on myself, and it credits those who have done behind-the-scenes work to make the achievement possible. This is a real help in developing a humble spirit!

If you neglect to be grateful, you are acting as if you alone are responsible for the good in your life. My friend Shelly says that when she expresses gratefulness to God or others, it humbles her, because she is admitting that God and others are responsible for the good she's accomplished or the goals she has reached.

8.) Serve Others

"...by love serve one another." - Galatians 5:13

"Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many." - Matthew 20:28.

Serving others, especially in menial tasks, is an effective way to develop a humble spirit. Serving others could mean volunteering to help with the dishes, rock the baby, clean the bathroom, or talk with a lonely elderly person.

It is essential to serve with a joyful attitude. If your goal in serving is to humble yourself and glorify God (rather than to gain the appreciation of others), you will experience a true joy in serving.

9.) Weep over Sin

I think the key to an appropriate sorrow lies in seeing sin through God's eyes. If you

view your sin as God views it, you will understand what a serious thing it is to break the righteous law of our Holy God.

When I haven't felt particularly remorseful after having sinned against God, I have asked Him to "break my heart with the things that break His heart". I think of how sorrowful the Lord must be after He humbled Himself, lived a sinless life on earth, and willingly died to redeem me and make me his daughter — and then I repeatedly transgress His law and don't even feel bad about it! Seeing my sin through God's eyes brings mourning and genuine repentance, followed by a deepened humility and heightened joy as I experience the boundless forgiveness of the Lord as He purifies my heart once again.

10.) Ask Others to Point Out Blind Spots

Those who are close to you can often see faults in you which you do not even realize you have. If you are truly striving to imitate Christ, you will want to know your "blind spots" so that you can work to improve in these areas.

It requires a humble spirit to ask another to point out your blind spots — and to not "react" when they do! Considering that a "blind spot" is exactly that — something you can't see — you will probably be surprised at the faults others point out when you ask them. There is a temptation to argue and defend yourself, but you should instead thank them sincerely for their assistance, and work to improve in the areas they have mentioned.

11.) Get Rid of "Status Symbols"

Status symbols are those things which you have for the purpose of impressing others. Those who desire to have a humble spirit need to understand that "a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth." (Luke 12:15^b).

It is not wrong to have nice things. But sometimes we can act in a "showing off" manner, and buy specific things just to impress others. Examine your heart and see if you have any "status symbols" that should be discarded in order to promote a humble spirit.

12.) Give Sacrificially

"There is that maketh himself rich, yet hath nothing: there is that maketh himself

poor, yet hath great riches.” - Proverbs 13:7. Sacrificial giving does not mean that you should give away all your money. You are to be a wise steward of that which the Lord has given you, and it is wise to save for the future. But you should give your tithe money with a willing heart, and if the Lord lays on your heart to donate additional funds to His work, do it cheerfully.

Giving sacrificially does not always involve money. You can give of your time and energy as well. The key is to not hoard resources, but to give generously.

Care is needed, though, because if sacrificial giving is done out of a proud heart, it will not serve to develop a humble spirit. (The proud Pharisee arrogantly praised himself for how he gave tithes; see Luke 18:11-14.)

13.) Listen to Others Instead of Talking about Yourself

“...let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak...” - James 1:19. Talking too much about yourself* reveals a “me-focus” and indicates to others that you are wrapped up in yourself and the things you are doing.

It is fine to talk, but you should focus on others and really listen to what they are saying. Oftentimes instead of listening to somebody talk, you may be thinking about what you will say as soon as they are done talking! A humble spirit cares about others, and wants to hear about them.

14.) Avoid Joking about Others

Often telling jokes about others can be a way of putting them down. The Bible says to “Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another.” - Romans 12:10. Joking about others is not consistent with the attitude of one who has a humble spirit.

Overall, these methods for developing a humble spirit center on one thing: rejoicing in the lifting up and serving of others. A humble spirit is “others-centered” rather than “me-focused”. Someone with a humble spirit desires to fully submit to God and to honor others above herself. In writing this article, I became even more aware that I do not put all these ideas into practice, and I am still in the process of developing a humble spirit! My prayer is that you will be encouraged and motivated to begin taking

practical steps toward acquiring a humble spirit of your own. ♡

*John 7:18— “He that speaketh of himself seeketh his own glory: but he that seeketh his glory that sent him, the same is true, and no unrighteousness is in him.” Also see Matthew 12:36. [-Editor]

A Biblical View of Self

Mrs. Valerie Ellis

The world places much emphasis on Self. We are told to love ourselves and that it is important to have Self-esteem. We are told that we should all be Self-confident and realize our Self-worth. The world has told us to be Self-assertive and Self-reliant. It is easy to come to the conclusion that the world is preoccupied with Self!

In contrast to the world’s philosophy, though, the Bible warns us against Self. The Bible does not ever encourage us to love ourselves, or to place emphasis on Self. In fact, the Bible mentions Self-love as a characteristic of worldly people in the last days (2 Timothy 3:12). The Biblical view of Self is not what the world teaches!

Who Is Self?

When the Bible speaks of “Self”, it is referring to our sin nature – the part of us that sins. We all have a sin nature that we have inherited from Adam as a result of the Fall (Romans 5:12). Other names for “Self” and our sin nature in the Bible are our “old man” and our “flesh”. This Self is not your physical body.

Because Self is our sin nature, it is also our enemy in our Christian walk. Self does not want us to serve the Lord, but to serve Self. Self is a false god who puffs herself up and tries to take the place of God in our lives.

Self or Jesus

To help us understand, picture a line with Self on one end and Jesus at the other end. Every person is walking in one direction on the line – either following and serving Self or following and serving Jesus. Because they are opposites, a person cannot possibly be serving both at the same time.

The plight of the human race is that we are all born facing Self – we are slaves to Self

and cannot do anything but serve Self. To follow Jesus, Jesus said a person must deny (say no to) Self and turn and begin following Him (Matthew 16:24). At that moment, a person changes the way he is walking on the line and goes in the opposite direction – serving and loving Jesus.

Does Self then leave us alone? No! Self then becomes our enemy, doing all she can to have us serve her again. If, after becoming a Christian, we fall to the temptation of serving Self, we are in essence denying (saying no to) Jesus and turning to face Self again. Although we do not then lose our salvation, we need to recognize as quickly as possible what we have done, confess it, and turn back to following and serving the Lord.

True or False

1. Sometimes I can’t help but turn back and begin to serve Self again.

False: We do not ever have to serve Self again after becoming a Christian. When we do, we have made the choice and yielded to the temptation. We are promised that there is a way to escape from every temptation (1 Corinthians 10:13).

2. We must continually be on guard for ways in which Self will try to take God’s place in our lives.

True: We can never let down our guard against Self. Having victory over Self is a lifelong process. Self will never become friends with our new nature. Self will never give up the desire for control. We can never begin to trust Self.

3. It is possible to think we are serving the Lord when we are really still following Self.

True: We can agree intellectually to the facts of the gospel, without truly making the first initial turning from Self. Agreeing with the facts is not what saves us. We must confess our sins, then repent (turn from) them, and follow Jesus.

4. After I have served the Lord awhile, my Self begins to want to serve the Lord, too.

False: Self is never reformed. Self will always be completely sinful. Paul said, “[In my flesh] dwelleth no good thing.” - Romans 7:18. When we are saved, the Lord gives us a new nature that wants to serve Him. Our Godliness is a result of living in accordance with this new nature, not as a result of reforming Self.

How Self Shows Itself

When we fall to the temptation of serving Self, we do things that are Self-ish – things that place Self above God and others in our lives. We sometimes think of being Self-ish only in terms of “not sharing”. However, there are many, many ways in which Self-ishness (serving Self) shows up in our lives. Here are some of the more common.

1. Being easily offended. If we get angry or hurt by the least offense of others (i.e., someone doesn't talk to us at church), we are being Self-ish. We are focusing only on Self and what we want others to do to keep us happy. Self says, “They are not treating me as I deserve to be treated.” The Bible says, “[Charity] is not easily provoked.” - 1 Corinthians 13:5.
2. Being grouchy. Just because we happened to wake up on the wrong side of the bed, everyone else in the family has to “walk on eggshells” for the day or else endure the mean things we will say to them! We are miserable; something didn't go our way, and we make everyone else suffer also. Self says, “I'm not having fun today, and I'm going to make sure that no one else does, either!” The Bible says, “Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace to the hearers.” - Ephesians 4:29.
3. Not being able to handle criticism. If we get angry or go into a three-week depression whenever we are criticized, we are being Self-ish. Do we think so highly of ourselves that we never expect anyone to disagree with us? Do we think so highly of ourselves that we are above being shown a better way to do something? Whenever we are criticized, Self tempts us to reject the criticism. Self does not want to admit that she has any weaknesses. Self says, “I do not deserve to be criticized. That person is no better than me, and does not have any right to criticize me.” The Bible says, “Poverty and shame shall be to him that refuseth instruction: but he that regardeth reproof shall be honored.” - Proverbs 13:18.
4. Not being able to admit when we are wrong. If we know we are wrong, yet will not admit it, we are serving Self at that moment. Self never wants to admit

that she is wrong. Self will make excuses, rationalize, blame someone else, etc. – anything to keep from taking responsibility for the wrong! Self says, “It's not my fault.” The Bible says, “He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.” - Proverbs 28:13.

5. Not picking up after ourselves. This is another way of serving Self instead of others. Why should others in our family have to live in and look at our messes? Or why should others in our family have to pick up after us? Instead of serving others, Self seeks to be served. Self does not care if others have to do her work for her. Self says, “I am more important than others in my family.” The Bible says, “...in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves” - Philippians 2:3.
6. Feeling sorry for ourselves. When things are not going as we had hoped, we are tempted to feel sorry for ourselves and to wallow in Self-pity. This is a temptation from Self to forget that God is on the throne and to turn and serve Self and her hopes and dreams. When we are feeling sorry for ourselves, our focus is totally on Self, and we are completely absorbed by Self. Self says to us, “I don't deserve this. I deserve better.” The Bible says that God is working all things out for our good (Romans 8:28).
7. Prejudices. All attitudes we may have of being worth more than another person for any reason are Self-ish. Self wants us to believe that we are somehow of more value than others and will convince us that we are better because we have more money, are prettier, are more intelligent, or have the right color of skin, or hair, or eyes, and on and on ad infinitum! Self will always try to puff herself up. The Bible tells us that God is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34), which means that He does not consider anyone of more value than anyone else. If we would follow Jesus, we must have this same attitude.
8. Pouting. This is so Self-ish. If everyone doesn't do what we want when we want, we cross our arms, stick out our

lower lip, and refuse to cooperate with others until they give us our way. It's Self again saying, “I should always get what I want.” The Bible says, “[Charity] seeketh not her own.” - 1 Corinthians 13:5.

9. Arrogance. This is one that Self deceives Christians with a lot! After we begin to walk with the Lord, we begin to see Him working in us, and we see how He's changing us. We begin to see that we don't sin in ways we used to, and that we are actually making some progress toward Christ-likeness. This is when Self comes to tempt us. Self whispers to us, “Look how well I'm doing! Aren't I wonderful? I am getting to be so holy! I am one of the most humble people around! I am great!” And before we know it, we are actually serving Self again. We are giving Self credit for our spiritual progress and becoming proud of our humility! Self has actually convinced us that she is helping us become more Christ-like when in reality, she is doing all she can to keep us from following God. Any spiritual progress in our lives is by God's grace, and is a result of our walking according to our new nature. Self definitely has nothing to do with it! Jesus told us, “...without me, ye can do nothing.” - John 15:5.

These are only some of the ways that Self gets our focus off the Lord and onto her. There are many others. Serving Self is what we do naturally. We must learn to recognize Self and choose to deny her.

Our New Nature

To accept ourselves for who we are means to recognize the total sinfulness of Self. We must recognize that Self will never be able to be any better. We must not love Self, rely on Self, assert Self, be confident in Self, or esteem Self. Jesus gave us a new nature when we were born again. As we deny Self and obey the Lord, we will begin to see our new nature being more prominent than Self. We will be a testimony to the transforming power of the Lord Jesus Christ. We will truly be a “new creature [in Christ]. Old things [will be] passed away; behold, all things [will] become new.” - 2 Corinthians 5:17. ❖

Self-Pity

Mrs. Zakula

Dear Daughters of the King,

Isn't that a pleasant sounding greeting? To think that you are called to be daughters of our great King, Jesus Christ, surely must be a great honor to you! How do you feel about this? Do you feel like a princess? Do you look like a princess? Do you act like a princess? Do you think like a princess? Do all of the answers to the above questions reflect your position as a princess, a daughter of our King? This month I would like to discuss one word that can often rob us of feeling, looking, thinking, and acting like a true princess.

"Self-pity" is such an ugly word. Few of us would like to claim self-pity as a trait belonging to us. The word "pity" has a very nice definition. It means to have compassion, to feel sorry, to have sympathy for someone. Of course, this compassion and sympathy is properly directed toward others. That would be right and Biblical. "Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep." - Rom 12:15.

It is only when we turn this pity inward on ourselves that it becomes something ugly and sinful. The term self-pity espouses a self-indulgent attitude concerning one's own difficulties, hardships, etc.

It is impossible for contentment and self-pity to live in the same heart. It is also impossible to have a heart of gratitude and thanksgiving, and feel sorry for one's self at the same time. Our King commands us in His Word to both be content and to have hearts of thanksgiving. How our self-pity must disappoint Him! He, who has freely given us all things, must listen to us indulge in our complaints.

If you are a girl who has a problem with self-pity, every time you catch yourself in the act of "feeling sorry for yourself", you need to stop immediately and change gears, so to speak. It never hurts you to sometimes admit to your parents or a close sister or friend that you are struggling with this.

After all, it is unlikely that they cannot see that already. Didn't you know that your deep sighs and long faces are noticed by others? Of course, you did. That is just a quiet, little way of seeking pity from others. However, if you have caught yourself in the act of self-pity, you can usually turn this bad

situation around by simply saying something like, "I'm feeling sorry for myself today. This is wrong.", and asking Jesus to forgive you.

There are several things we can do to nip this bad habit, which is a serious sin, in the bud. First, we must never complain. When we complain, we are voicing that we feel we have not been treated fairly. If we continue to complain, our attitude will soon be, "Life just isn't fair. My parents don't treat me right. They give me too much work to do. They must not love me."

Second, the attitude, "it is too hard for me" can often lead to self-pity. "It's too hard. I can't get it. It's too cold. It's too much work." All these statements are meant to imply what a very difficult time I am having. Those within hearing are supposed to understand and make things easier for me.

Third, discontentment, when allowed to fester in the heart, will only strengthen the bonds of self-pity. Discontentment says, "I don't like my present material possessions, or activities, or even my immediate family." Discontentment wishes for something different. This can lead to a "poor me" attitude. This kind of girl will mature into a bitter and unhappy woman.

Yes, self-pity is an ugly sin that poisons our soul, robs us of our happiness, and destroys the happiness of others around us. When a person decides to be cloudy, moody, and depressed with self-pitying thoughts and attitudes, she steals some of the sunshine away from the others near her. Have we ever thought how often we rob others of their light-heartedness by raining our negative attitudes on them?

What can we do? We should receive and do all things thankfully. "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." - 1 Thess 5:18. We should never give the excuse "this is too hard" for anything. We need to learn to work hard and work long, even when we are tired. When we do not understand how to do something, we need to ask or obtain help to do our work.

We must claim the Bible verse, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." - Phil 4:13. Doing hard things builds strength of character and dependability.

Lastly, consider contentment, that jewel

of great price. "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." - Heb 13:5. By not complaining and giving thanks for all things, a girl will begin to exchange her heart of self-pity for a heart of thanksgiving, which will make her a pleasant princess. There are many ways that we can encourage contentment to grow in our hearts. One way is by not entertaining the temptation of spending hours in the shopping malls looking at things which we cannot have. Another is to avoid browsing through magazines looking at all the pretty clothes, nice things, trips abroad, etc. These temptations can create much envy in our hearts.

Why not count our blessings and name them one by one? Let's look at all that we already have, or are privileged to do, instead of what we do not have and cannot do. Let's praise our King for all His goodness and all that He has given us. Let us smile and spread sunshine to those around us, and brighten their day instead of dampen it.

Dear daughters of our King, these seem like such small things, and yet, life is made up of small things. Relationships are made up of many small things, and the small things are usually dictated by the attitudes of one's heart. The attitudes, the intangibles, are what color the portrait of a family's life. I pray that as true princesses of our Heavenly King, you will have a heart of compassion for others, but never a heart to pity yourself.

The best time to break old habits and to learn new ones is the present. Begin now to never sigh or complain of the work load when you are tired. Always be cheerful with your brothers and sisters, and never complain to them, or in front of them. In fact, just never complain. What a sweet thing for someone to say about you, "Mary just does the work well and with a smile. She never complains." A true princess and daughter of our King Jesus will bring honor and glory to Him in the small things of her daily life. ♡

Poetry and Prose

Dying to Self

Author Unknown

Submitted by Nicole Griffiths

When you are forgotten or neglected or purposely set at naught and you do not sting and hurt at the oversight, but your heart is happy, being counted worthy to suffer for Christ—that is dying to self.

When your good is evil spoken of, when your wishes are crossed, your advice disregarded, your opinions ridiculed, and you refuse to let anger rise in your heart, or even defend yourself, but take it all in patient loving silence—that is dying to self.

When you lovingly and patiently bear any disorder, any irregularity, any impunctuality or any annoyance, when you can stand face to face with waste, folly extravagance, spiritual insensibility and endure it as Jesus endured it—that is dying to self.

When you are content with any good, any offering, any raiment, any climate, any society, any solitude, any interruption by the will of God—that is dying to self.

When you never care to refer to yourself in conversation, or to record your own good works, or itch after commendation, when you can truly love to be unknown—that is dying to self.

When you can receive correction and reproof from one of less stature than yourself and can humbly submit inwardly as well as outwardly, finding no rebellion or resentment rising up within your heart—that is dying to self. ♡

Practical Applications

- 1) Ask the Lord for humility! ☺
- 2) Spend lots of time with the Lord, and keep your focus on Him every moment.
- 3) Look for ways to serve others. Even if it means giving up your time or plans for them!
- 4) See Lara Bode’s “How to Develop a Humble Spirit”!

Sonya Martin (from thekingsdaughtermag.com): “Learn humility. Look for ways to humble yourself. Begin by realizing you can’t do it on your own. You need the help of others, either through prayer or [in other ways]. Ask specific people to pray for you in specific ways. Ask God to make you a pure vessel that He can use for His glory. Be willing to be humbled by mistakes or failure, if that is His will. Fall on your face and cry out to God for strength, acknowledging that you are incapable and inadequate. Reject judgment, pride, and comparison toward others. Focus on the needs of others.” ♡

Reputable Reviews

Humility
Andrew Murray

Andrew Murray was one of the godliest men who ever lived. His book on humility is a must-read for every Christian! Chapters are [“Humility:...”] “...The Glory of the Creature”, “...The Secret of Redemption”, “...in the Life of Jesus”, “...in the Teaching of Jesus”, “...in the Disciples of Jesus”, “...in Daily Life”, “...and Holiness”, “...and Sin”, “...and Faith”, “...and Death to Self”, “...and Happiness”, “...and Exaltation”. I found “Humility in Daily Life” a great blessing. The small book contains so many wonderful insights that are so often overlooked in Christian circles. If I could recommend just two books (other than the Bible) to every Christian, this would be one of them!

The following tape set can be ordered FREE of charge from Charity Gospel Tape Ministry, 400 Main St. NW, Ephrata, PA, 1-800-227-7902, www.charityministries.org. You can also call for a free catalogue of other excellent tapes that will be beneficial to your spiritual life. ☺

The Jewel of Humility
Denny Kenaston

I [Editor] have not personally listened to all the tapes in this series, but it is in our possession and I have listened to a few (which were good). Titles include “Beautiful Attitudes,” “The Jewel of Humility,” “How Can I Humble Myself? (Parts 1 & 2),” & “Humility is Laying Down Our Lives for Others.”

Review from the back cover: “Humility is described as an adoring jewel in the Christian life. It is poverty in spirit and a constant awareness of our dependence on God. This set of messages is full of rich insights into the true nature of humility.” ♡

Timeless Truths

This is a new section; please consider submitting!

This section is for anyone to contribute to. You can share what the Lord has been teaching you, a meaningful verse, a testimony, a thought, a devotional, and such. Or you can share a prayer request or answer to prayer.

Definition from IBLP (Institute in Basic Life Principles):

HUMILITY (vs. PRIDE)—

“Humility is...recognizing that God and others are actually responsible for the achievements in my life.”

John 5:30—“I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.” If Jesus said He could do nothing of Himself, but of the Father, and that He sought not His own will, but the Father’s, how much more should this be our attitude?! ☺ (Adapted from Andrew Murray)

The abundant life that God has in mind for each and every child of His is available in the fullest to all who will humble themselves, surrender all, and live by faith. It is a life completely free from presumptuous (willful) sin, mightily used by the Holy Spirit, and radiating Christ. It is holy and absolutely Christlike. It is free from anxiety, frustration, and discord. It is a life of effectual prayer. It is one that cultivates a quiet heart, and a heart perfect before the Lord. It is joy and peace. And every one of us youth girls can have it! ♡

Wondrous Words

2 Chronicles 7:14—If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I

hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

2 Kings 22:19—Because thine heart was tender, and thou hast humbled thyself before the LORD...I also have heard thee, saith the LORD.

Psalms 9:12—...He forgetteth not the cry of the humble.

Psalms 10:12—Arise, O LORD; O God, lift up thine hand: forget not the humble.

Psalms 10:17—LORD, thou hast heard the desire of the humble: thou wilt prepare their heart, thou wilt cause Thine ear to hear.

Psalms 34:2—My soul shall make her boast in the LORD: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad.

Psalms 69:32—The humble shall see this, and be glad: and your heart shall live that seek God.

Psalms 119:165—"Great peace have they which love Thy law: and nothing shall offend them."

Proverbs 15:33—The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom; and before honour is humility.

Proverbs 16:19—Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud.

Proverbs 18:12—Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, and before honour is humility.

Proverbs 22:4—By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, and honour, and life.

Proverbs 29:23—A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.

Isaiah 57:15—For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

Micah 6:8—He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

Matthew 18:4—Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 23:12—And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.

Luke 9:23,24—And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and

follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it.

Romans 6:6—Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

Galatians 2:20—I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Galatians 5:16,24—This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

Philippians 2:8—And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

Colossians 3:12—Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering...

Titus 2:12—Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world.

James 4:6—But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

James 4:10—Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

1 Peter 5:5,6—Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.



Our Mission

The Christian Chronicle is a publication for Christian young ladies. Its goal is to provide conservative, wholesome reading material to inspire girls in their Christian walk. If you have questions or concerns, please let me know personally about them. I appreciate suggestions!

This publication is by no means intended to instill or encourage worldly, foolish, unbiblical, ungodly, erroneous, or opinionated principles, ideology, attitudes,

or doctrine. If you come across anything in the Christian Chronicle that fits an above description, please let me know about it.

This issue of this publication has been approved by the co-editors, my parents (Abe and Bernice Hiebert). ❧

Next Issue's Theme:

"Christian Living"

May the Lord bless you and continue to strengthen your faith in Him! May you grow to gain a deeper knowledge and understanding of His wonderful Word. May He help us all become virtuous young ladies, striving to become like the woman of Proverbs 31, and to become all glorious within (Ps. 45:13)! May He open our eyes to His important truths as we seek to please, to honor, and to obey Him, trusting Him fully in all He does, knowing He has a plan for our lives and wants to guide us in His will. May Christ use the Christian Chronicle to His honor and glory!
