

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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Humility-Tie It Tightly

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How many of you fellows like to wear a necktie? When you do have to wear one, how quickly do you loosen it when the occasion no longer demands such a formal look. We generally like loose fitting clothes that do not bind us, and give us a feeling of freedom in our movement. While there is nothing wrong in wearing loose fitting clothes, or wishing you did not have to wear a necktie, it is unscriptural to carry this “do not bind me” attitude into the spiritual realm.

Peter writes, “...Yea, all of you gird yourselves with humility, to serve one another: for God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace to the humble” (I Peter 5:5). The word, “gird” translates a Greek word which originally meant to “wrap up,” “bind” or “draw on closely.” The idea of tying something around you in a knot is conveyed by the term. Therefore, there is an article of spiritual clothing that must always be drawn up tightly around us. It is humility.

The “lowly mind” is an attitude that has always been unappealing to the self-promoting and self-asserting mindset of the world. The lowly mind is a demeaning mind and a sign of weakness to many. But God teaches us

that this the essential attitude that must be tied like a knot around us.

Jesus did not have an unhealthy demeaning attitude about Himself, but He was “lowly in heart” (Matthew 11:29). He “humbled” Himself, becoming obedient even unto death, yea the death of the cross (Philippians 2:8). By submitting to the Father’s will, God “highly exalted him, and gave him the name which is above every name” (Philippians 2:9).

As humility moved Jesus to give Himself up for our well-being, the same lowliness of mind must be tied like a knot around us so we can serve others. Peter says we must be girded with humility “to serve one another.” If all we think about is our own well-being, then we will not lower ourselves to see, and meet the needs of others. It is the “lowliness of mind” that moves us from not “looking each of you to his own things,” to “but each of you also to the things of others” (Philippians 2:3,5). The vivid picture of Jesus girding Himself with a towel, and then, as a servant, washing His disciples’ feet is one that we should never forget. If our Lord humbled Himself to serve, so should we willingly lower ourselves to serve others.

Adorning humility pleases God. Peter writes, “Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time” (I Peter 5:6). The humility that moves a child to unreservedly trust in the power of God to meet one’s needs is demanded by God (Matthew 18:4). He “resisteth the proud, but giveth grace to the humble”. The proud may manifest itself from young people disrespecting age to scornful people ridiculing God’s Will. God resists all forms of pride, while exalting the humble (I Peter 5:5, James 4:6, Proverbs 3:34).

God will exalt the humble in due time. So, why do not more people humble themselves in obedience to the will of God? Why do not more people follow the way of humility like Jesus manifested before them? Like the aversion some have in wearing a necktie, it is a little too restrictive for some to humble oneself in obedience to God’s Word, and become a servant to others. Many want to move freely in following after their own whims, while serving self. God teaches us that we must gird ourselves with humility to trust in Him and serve others. Tie this spiritual garment closely around you in a knot, so it will always be a part of you.