

Whoever Humbles Himself

Matthew 18:4



Whoever humbles himself like this child
is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.
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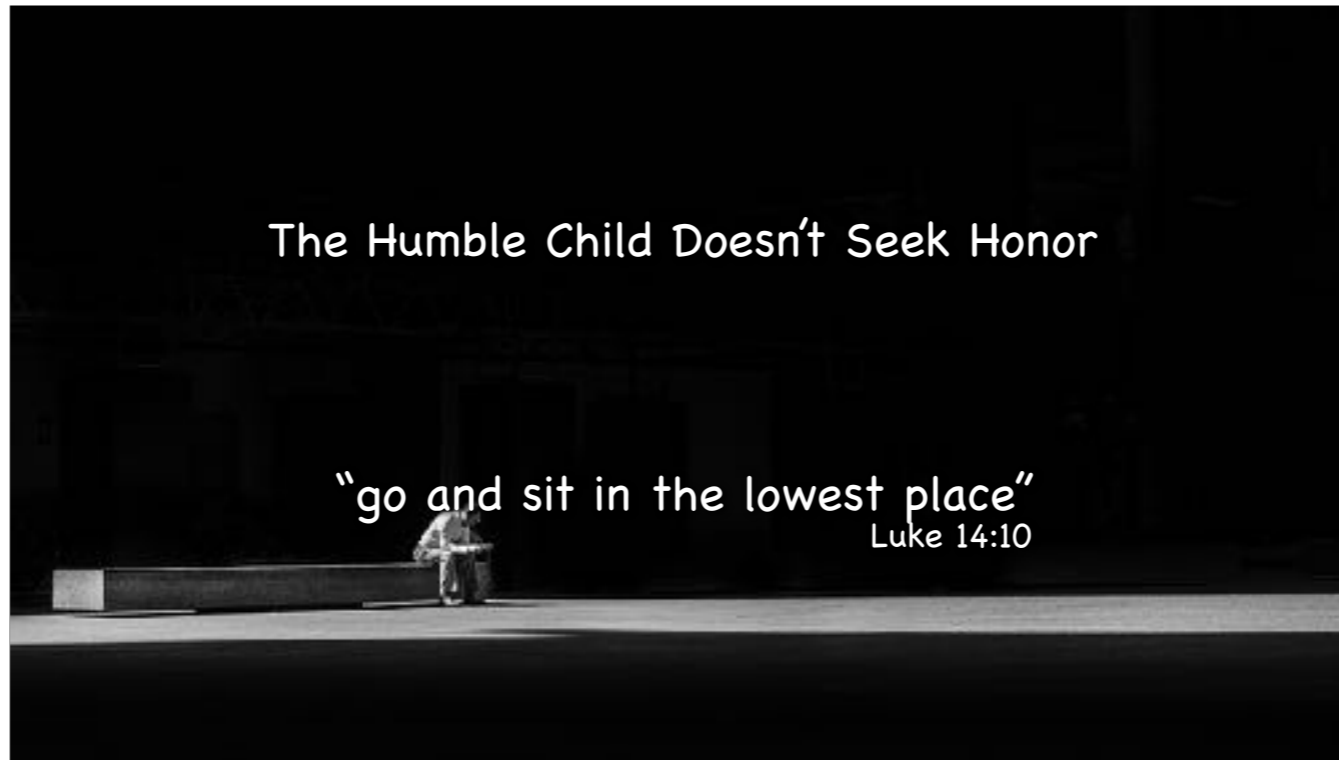


- 1 At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” 2 And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them 3 and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. 4 Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.
- Romans 12:3: Not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think
- Some dangers to beware of concerning humility

The Humble Child Doesn't Seek Honor



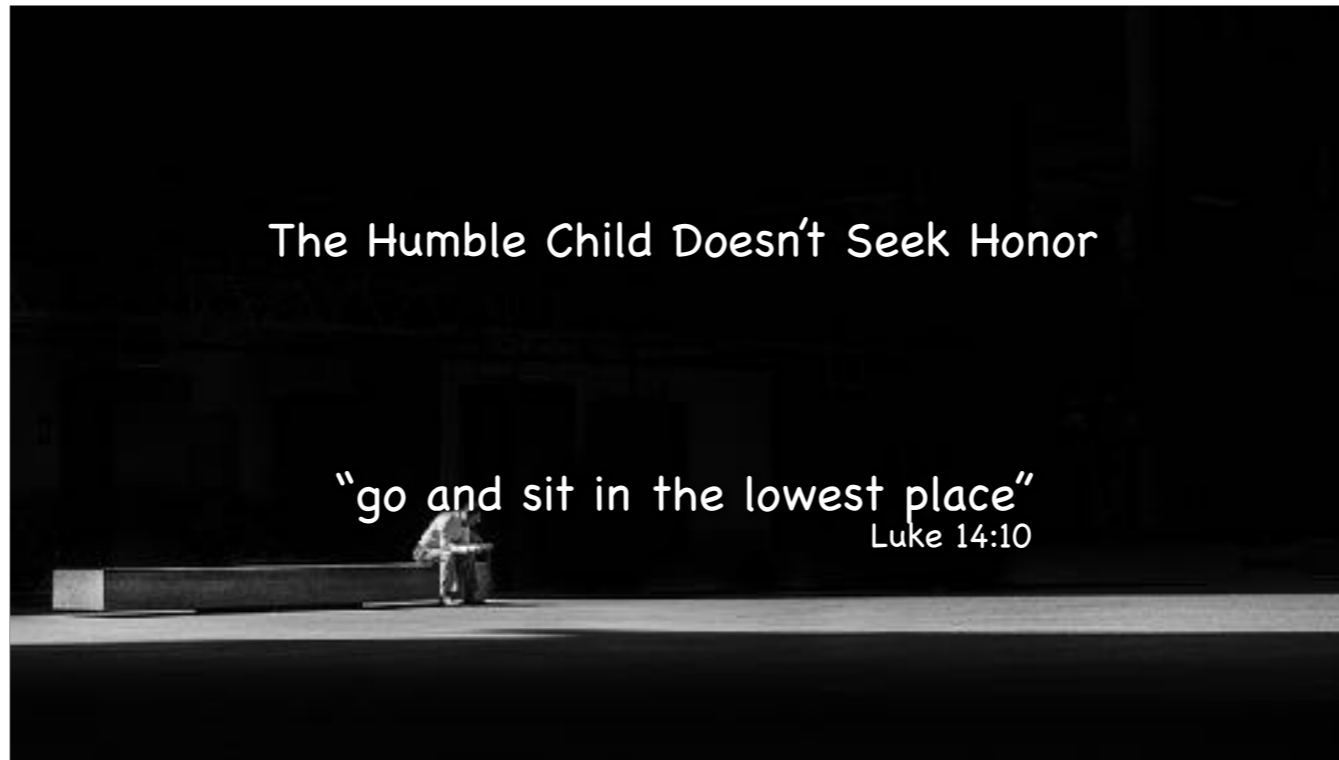
- Doesn't Seek Honor
- Luke 14:7-11 (ESV)



- 7 Now he told a parable to those who were invited, when **he noticed how they chose the places of honor**, saying to them,
- 8 "When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast,
 - do not sit down in a place of honor,
 - lest **someone more distinguished than you** be invited by him,
 - 9 and he who invited you both will come and say to you,
 - 'Give your place to this person,'
 - and then **you will begin with shame** to take the lowest place.



- 10 But when you are invited,
 - go and sit in the lowest place,
 - so that when your host comes he may say to you, '**Friend**, move up higher.'
 - Then **you will be honored in the presence of all** who sit at table with you.
- 11 For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."



- Warning:
 - If you're seeking the lowest sit so that the host will honor you, you're still seeking honor.
- Jesus' point is about choosing not to put yourself in a place where others will recognize you.
 - This very much feeds our egos
 - It's not uncommon for us to act as if we are being humble while still seeking for others to notice us.



- It's not a competition
 - But we are taught this from a young age: the cool kids at high school, e.g.
- So this is about choosing to just sit in the least conspicuous place,
 - and maybe just being happy to be there,
 - being happy that you're invited to the feast

The Humble Child Doesn't Compare Himself



- Doesn't Compare Himself with Others
- Luke 18:9-14



- He also told this parable
 - to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and
 - treated others with contempt:
- 10 "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.



- 11 The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God,
 - I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector.
 - 12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.'



- 13 But the tax collector, standing far off,
 - would not even lift up his eyes to heaven,
 - but beat his breast, saying,
 - ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’
- 14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

The Humble Child Doesn't Compare Himself

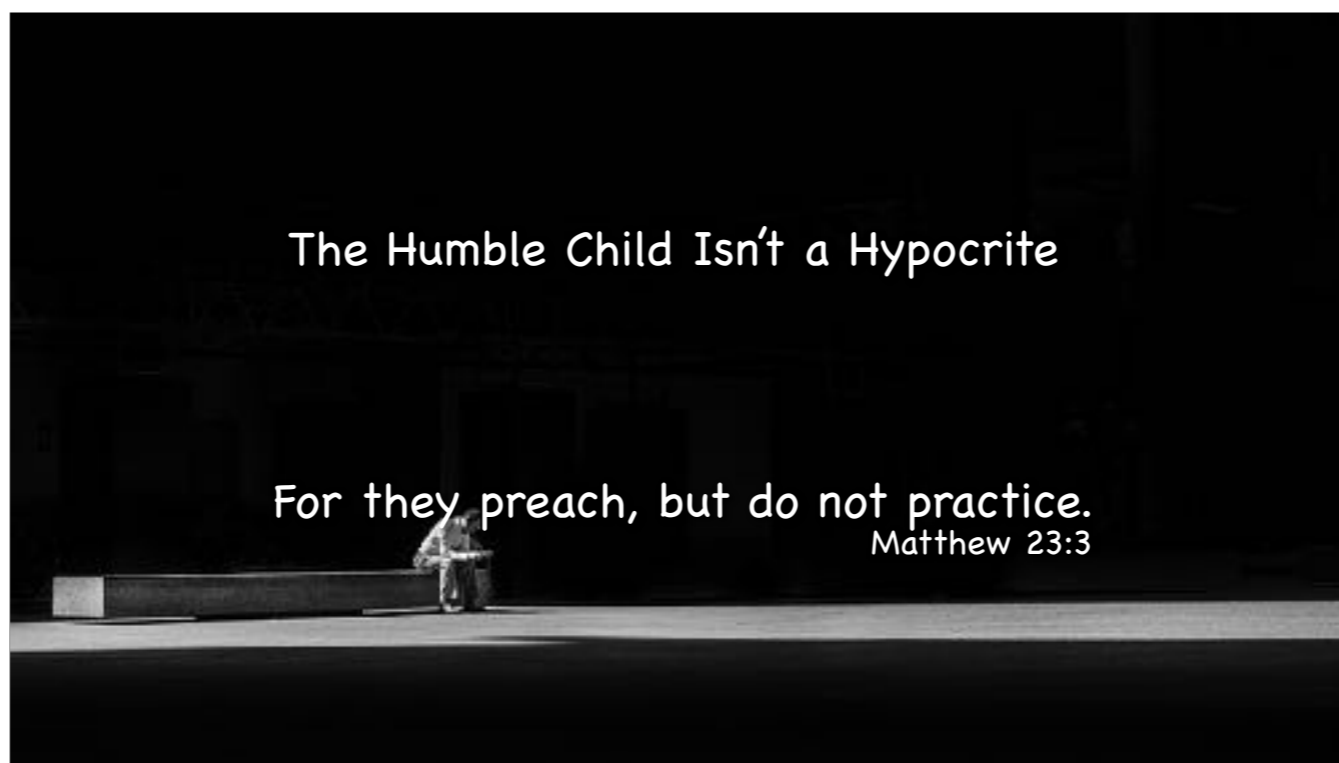
"treated others with contempt"
Luke 18:9

- The Pharisee measured himself by considering others, and found them less than himself
- The Tax Collector focused on his relationship with his father.

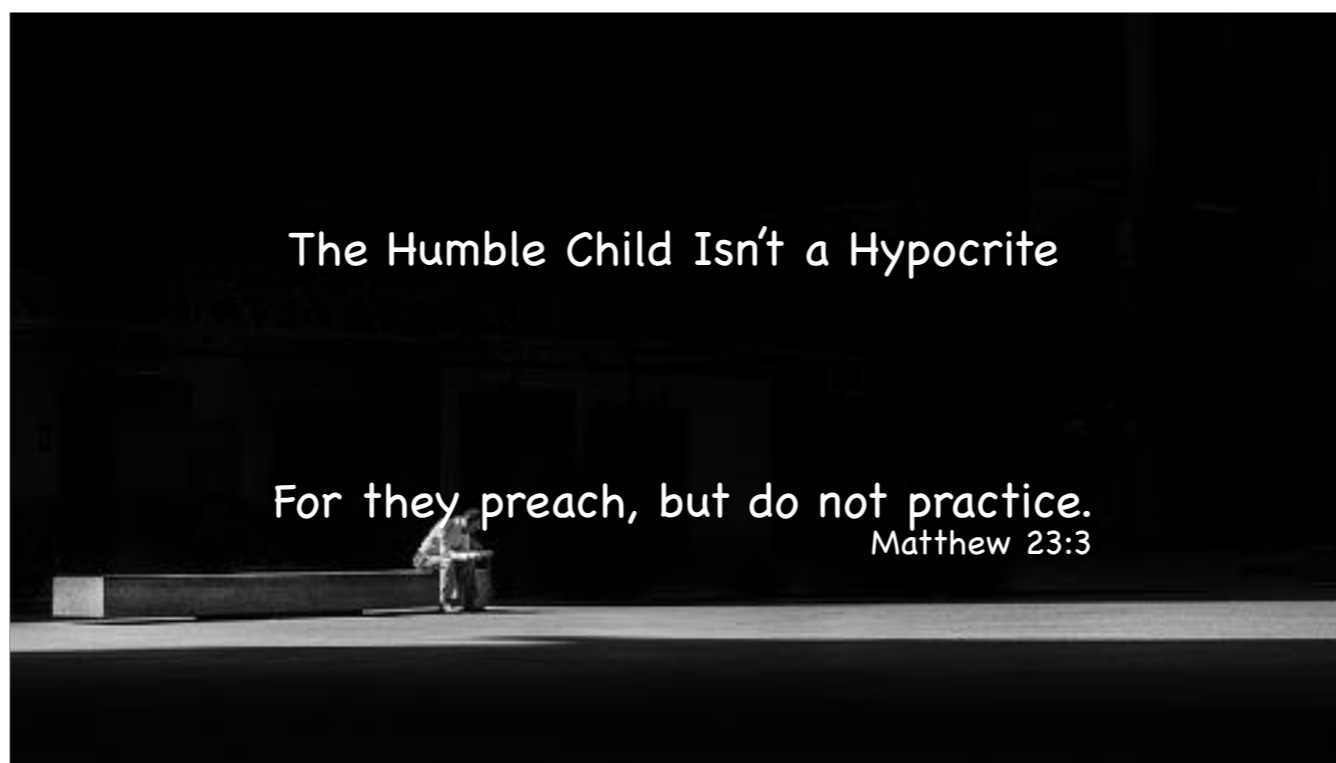
The Humble Child Isn't a Hypocrite



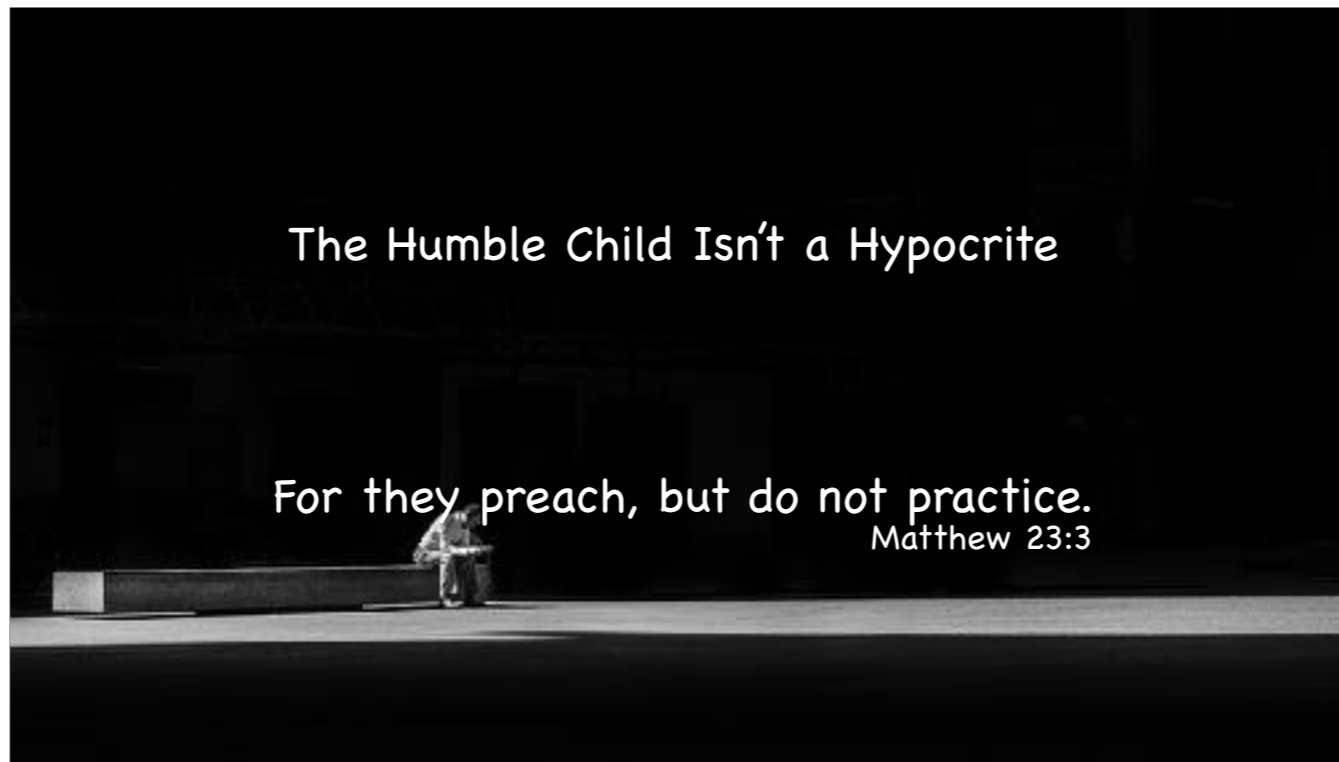
- Isn't a hypocrite
- Matthew 23:1-12



- Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples,
- 2 “The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat,
 - 3 so do and observe whatever they tell you,
 - but not the works they do.
 - For they preach, but do not practice.
- 4 They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on people's shoulders,
 - but they themselves are not willing to move them with their finger.



- 5 They do all their deeds to be seen by others.
 - For they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long,
 - 6 and they love the place of honor at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues
 - 7 and greetings in the marketplaces and being called rabbi by others.
 - 8 But you are not to be called rabbi,
 - for you have one teacher,
 - and **you are all brothers.**
 - 9 And call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven.
 - 10 Neither be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Christ.
 - 11 The greatest among you shall be your servant.
- 12 Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.



- The Hypocrisy that is not humble assumes that they know better for you.
 - They also think what they say doesn't really apply to themselves.
- They see themselves as superior, not brothers
 - So they lack integrity and character
 -

The Humble Child Doesn't Force It



- Doesn't Force It
- Colossians 2:16-23



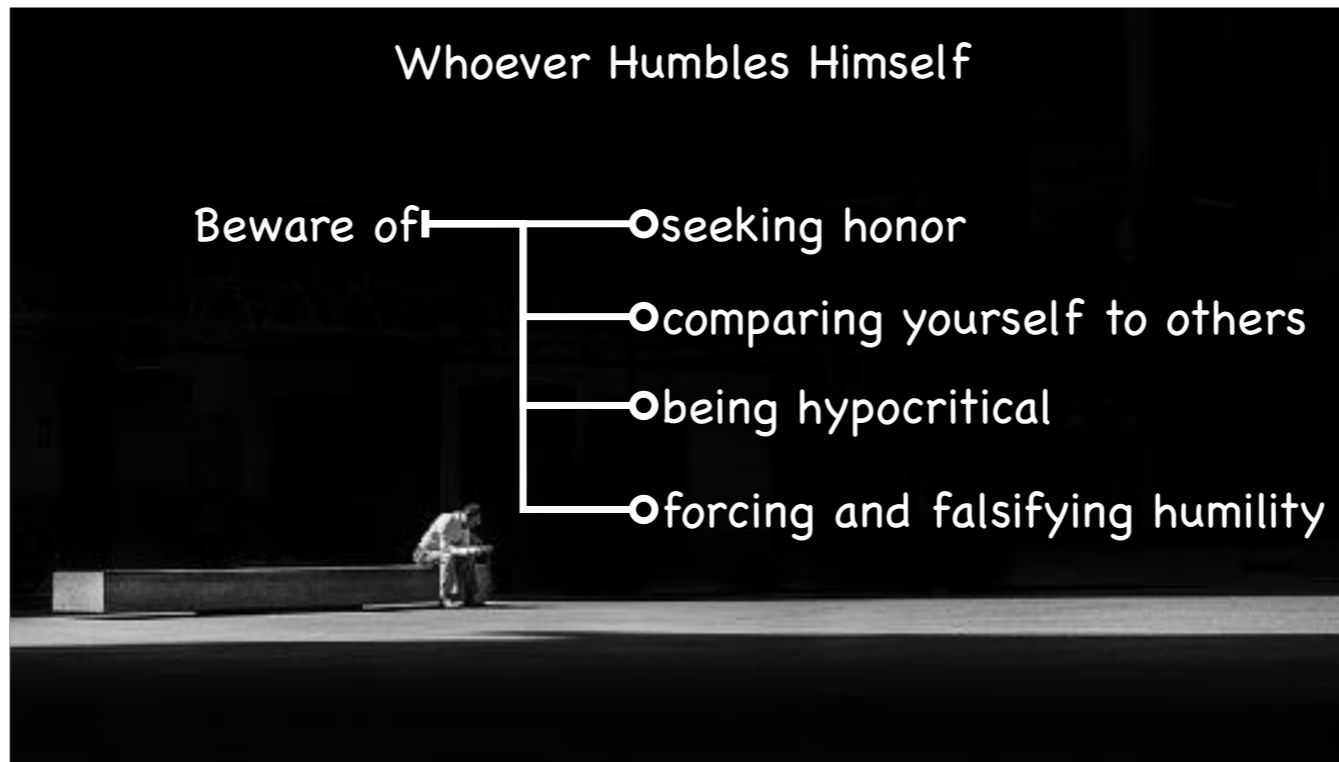
- Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath.
 - 17 These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.
- 18 Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind,
 - 19 and not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God.



- 20 If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world,
 - **do you submit to regulations—**
 - 21 “Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch”
 - 22 (referring to things that all perish as they are used)
 - —according to human precepts and teachings?
- 23 These have indeed **an appearance of wisdom in promoting** self-made religion and **asceticism** and severity to the body, but **they are of no value** in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.



- Forced humility and humility that is false are very dangerous.
 - Forced either by myself or forced on me by others
 - Things that look humble ... depriving ourselves of those things that are lawful.
 - Don't handle, taste, touch
 - Following the teachings and judgments of men
 - Instead of honoring Jesus, submitting to Jesus



- To be properly humble we must be aware of the dangers
 - seeking honor, or putting ourselves in the place of honor to be seen of others
 - comparing myself with others and condemning them
 - hypocrisy of saying all the right things but not doing them, especially telling others what to do
 - forcing and falsifying our humility that focuses on following rules of conduct decreed by others

We implore you
on behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:20

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Whoever Humbles Himself - part 1

Matthew 18:4

Synopsis: Jesus points us to the humility of a child if we are to enter the Kingdom of God. Several passages warn us of the dangers of striving to be humble. The humble child doesn't seek honor, nor do they compare themselves with others, nor are they hypocrites, and they don't force or falsify humility.

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“Let all that you do be done with love.”