

Whoever Humbles Himself

Part 2

Matthew 18:4



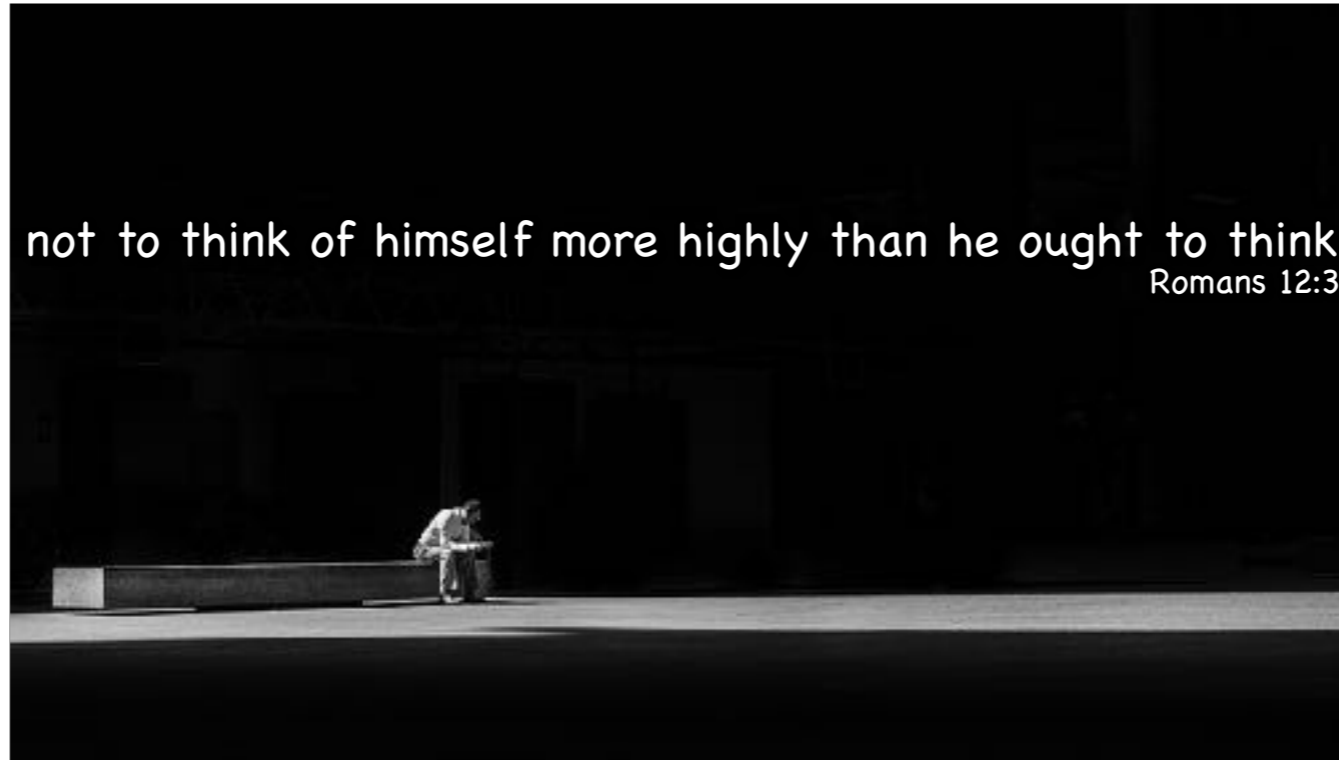


- 1 At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” 2 And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them 3 and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. 4 Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.



- Romans 12:3-8 (ESV) 3 For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. 4 For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, 5 so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. 6 Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; 7 if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; 8 the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think
Romans 12:3



- Romans 12:3-8 (ESV) 3 For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think,

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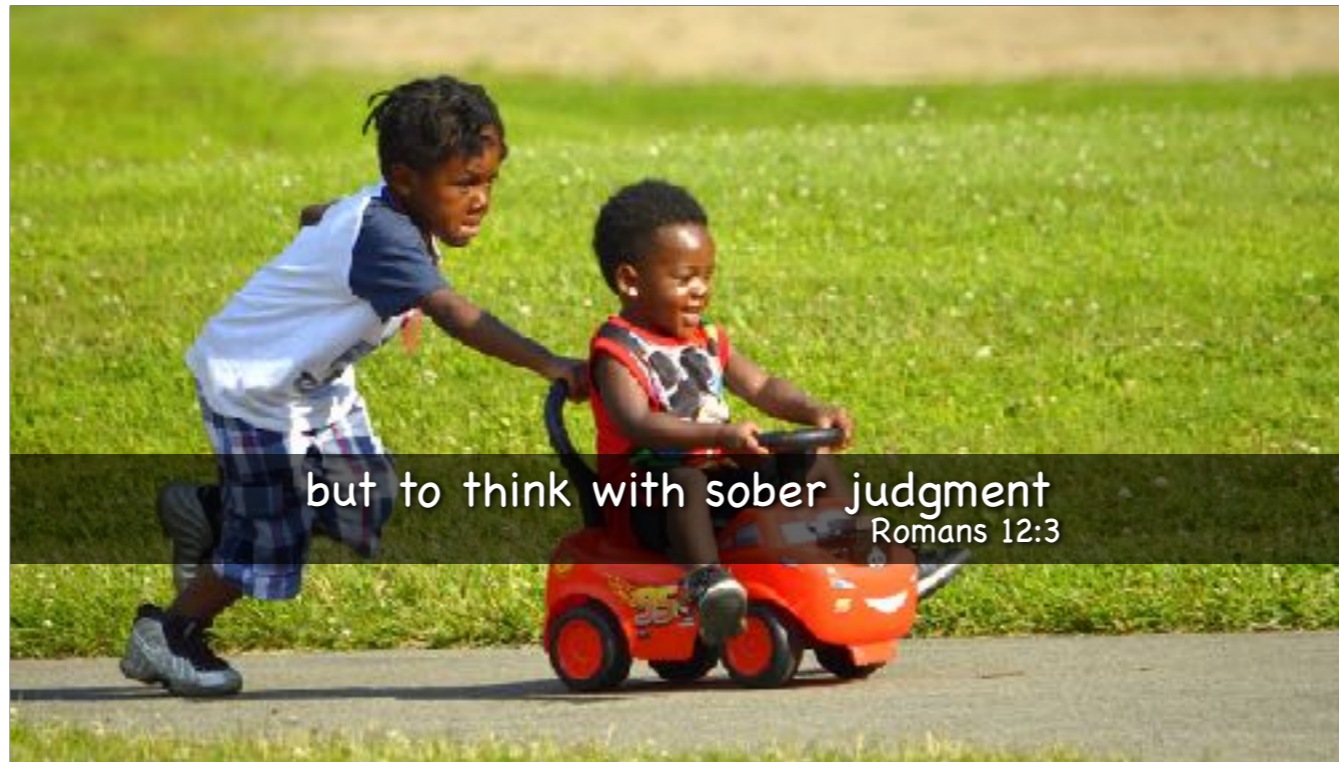
Beware of

- seeking honor
- comparing yourself to others
- being hypocritical
- forcing and falsifying humility

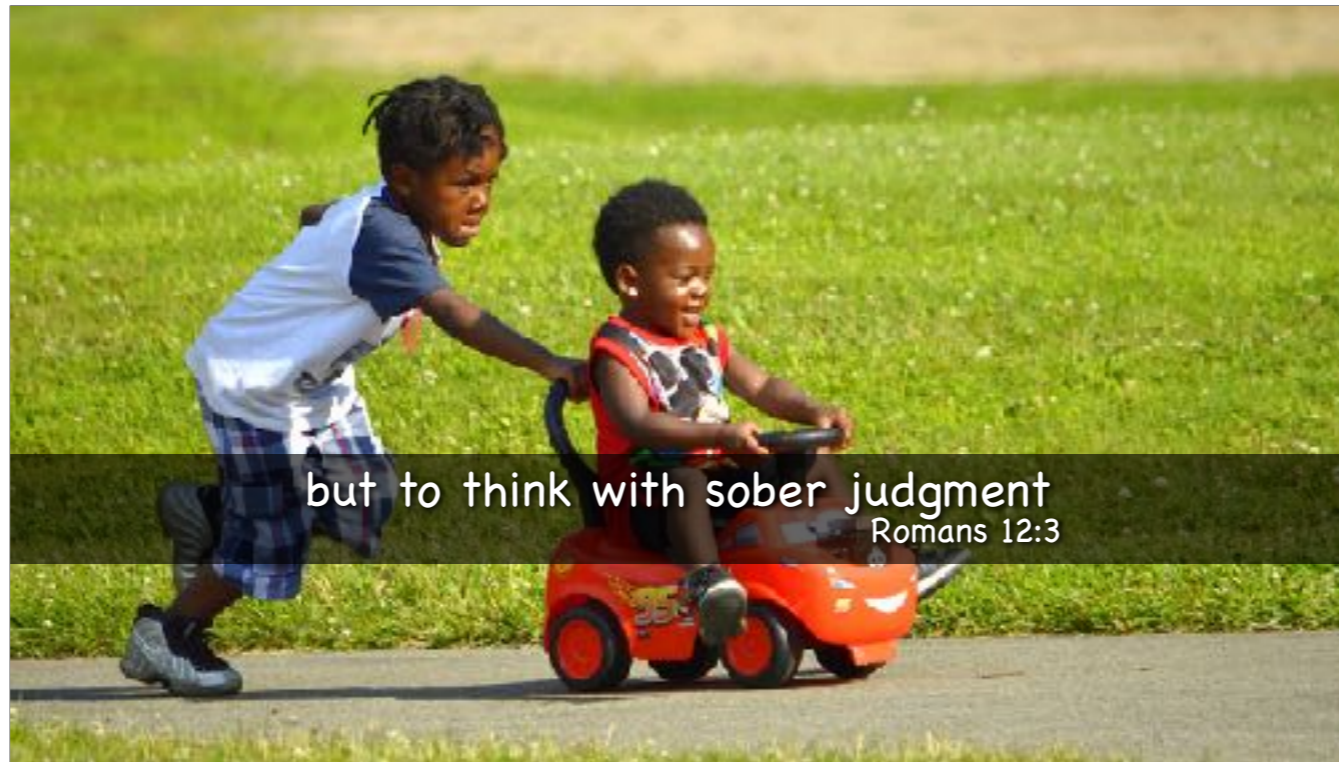
- To be properly humble we must be aware of the dangers
 - seeking honor, or putting ourselves in the place of honor to be seen of others
 - comparing myself with others and condemning them
 - hypocrisy of saying all the right things but not doing them, especially telling others what to do
 - forcing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



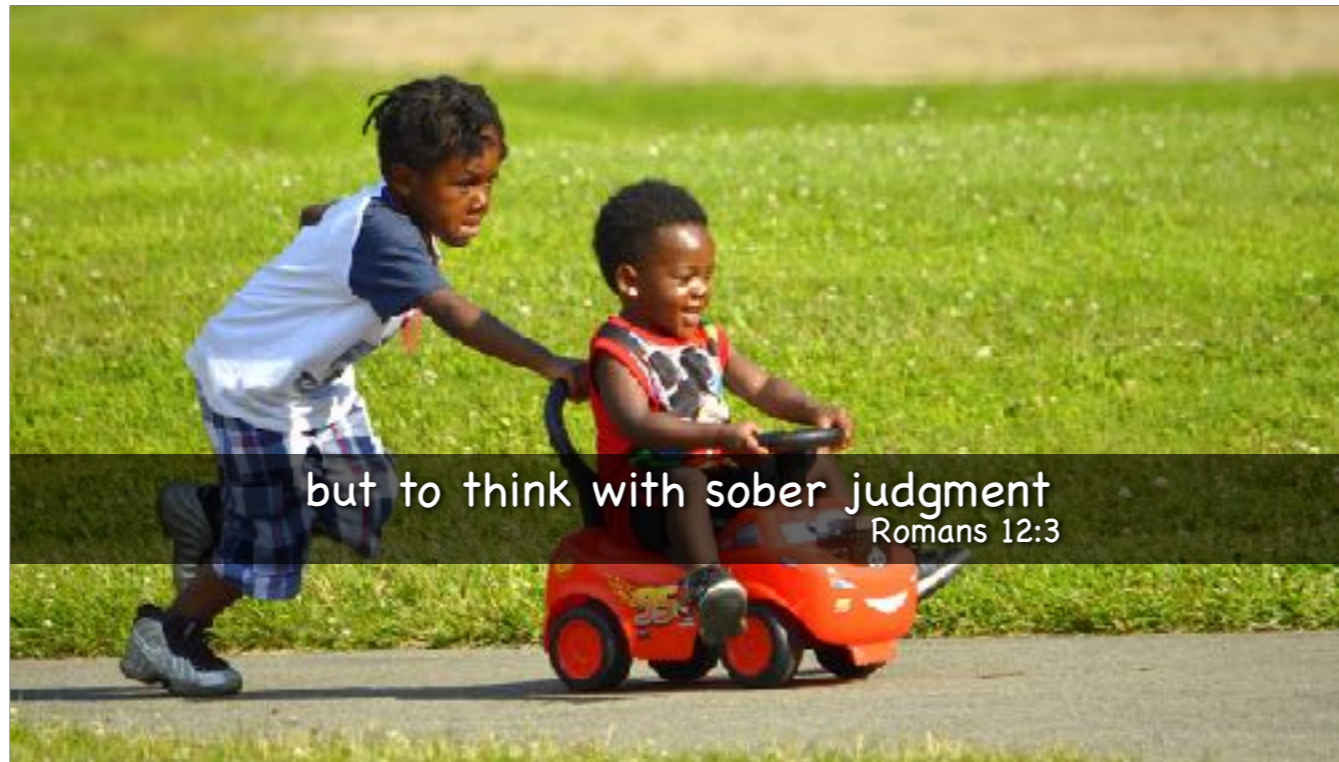
- but to think with sober judgment,
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- 4 For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function,
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-



- 6 Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us,
 - let us use them:
 - if prophecy, in proportion to our faith;
 - 7 if service, in our serving;
 - the one who teaches, in his teaching;
 - 8 the one who exhorts, in his exhortation;
 - the one who contributes, in generosity;
 - the one who leads, with zeal;
 - the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.



- but to think with sober judgment
- What is Sober Judgment?
 - Thayer: g4993 — be in right mind, be sober (minded), soberly.
 - to be of sound mind
 - to be in one's right mind
 - to exercise self control
 - to put a moderate estimate upon one's self, think of one's self soberly
 - to curb one's passions
 - 2 Corinthians 5:13 (ESV) 13 For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you.



- C. S. Lewis (Mere Christianity)
 - He will not be thinking about humility: he will not be thinking about himself at all.
 - If anyone would like to acquire humility, I can, I think, tell him the first step.
 - The first step is to realize that one is proud.
 - And a bigish step, too. At least, nothing whatever can be done before it.
 - If you think you are not conceited, it means you are very conceited indeed



- Depends on God's Grace (Thinking sober judgment)
- James 3:13 - 4:10



- **bitter jealousy** and **selfish ambition** in your hearts,
 - do not boast and be false to the truth.
 - 15 This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.
 - 16 For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.



But he
gives more
grace
James 4:6

The Humble Child Depends on God's Grace

- 1 What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you?
 - Is it not this, that your **passions are at war** within you?
 - 2 You **desire** and do not have, so you murder.
 - You **covet** and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel.
 - You do not have, because you do not ask.
 - 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, **to spend it on your passions.**



- Is this sober judgment? Or right minded thinking?
 - The source is quintessentially evil: earthly, unspiritual, demonic: enemies of God



But he
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James 4:6

The Humble Child Depends on God's Grace

- 13 Who is wise and understanding among you?
 - By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom.
 - 17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.
 - 18 And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who **make peace**.



But he
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James 4:6

The Humble Child Depends on God's Grace

- 6 **But he gives more grace.**
 - Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud but **gives grace to the humble.**”
 - 7 **Submit yourselves therefore to God.**
 - Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
 - 8 **Draw near to God**, and he will draw near to you.
 - **Cleanse** your hands, you sinners, and
 - **purify** your hearts, you double-minded.
 - 9 Be **wretched and mourn and weep.**
 - Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom.
 - 10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.



- 6 But he gives more grace.
- The humble child remembers that God is gracious
 - Having God's favor in our lives provides assurance of his care and contentment
 - Humility, then, is purposefully aware of God's graciousness



But he
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James 4:6

The Humble Child Depends on God's Grace

- God's grace provides us with different perspective about ourselves and others that results in peace instead of conflict.
 - Our motivation changes from one of getting what I want, fighting for what I want
 - To one of seeking peace, being reasonable, showing mercy
 - And all of this with purity and sincerity of heart



The Humble Child Is Clothed in Humility Towards Others

- Clothe Yourselves
- 1 Peter 5:5-11



- Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”
 - If God gives grace, should we not also give grace to one another.
 - Often our tendency is to be critical, judgmental, suspicious
 - if one of us walks into a bar, what is our first thought about why? drunkard
 - we tend to expect one another to be sinning or on the brink of sinning



Clothe
yourselves, all
of you, with
humility toward
one another
1 Peter 5:5

The Humble Child Is Clothed in Humility Towards Others

- Jesus clothed himself with a towel to wash the feet of the disciples.
 - Even Judas who would betray him.
 - And Peter who would deny him.
 - And they all ran away from him in the garden.



Clothe
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1 Peter 5:5

The Humble Child Is Clothed in Humility Towards Others

- 6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you,
 - 7 casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.
 - seeking God's grace about all the things that bother us



Clothe
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1 Peter 5:5

The Humble Child Is Clothed in Humility Towards Others

- 8 Be sober-minded; be watchful.
 - Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 9 Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.
 - Satan is constantly attacking: in this case, pride and judging others.



- 10 And after you have suffered a little while, **the God of all grace**, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ,
 - **will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.**
 - 11 To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.



- Selfish Ambition and Conceit vs. others more significant
- Philippians 2:1-11 (ESV) 1 So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, 2 complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. 3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.



In humility
count
others more
significant than
yourselves
Philippians 2:3

The Humble Child Counts Others More Significant

- 1 Corinthians 12:15-18 (ESV) 15 If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. 16 And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? 18 But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose.



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- 1 Corinthians 12:21-25 (ESV) 21 The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." 22 On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23 and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, 24 which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, 25 that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another.



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The Humble Child Counts Others More Significant

- 4 Let each of you look **not only** to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.
- Dangers of misinterpreting this to mean
 - that others are always right, or
 - we should always kowtow to them no matter what)



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The Humble Child Counts Others More Significant

- Paul and Barnabas
 - Acts 15:37-39 (ESV) 37 Now Barnabas wanted to take with them John called Mark. 38 But Paul thought best not to take with them one who had withdrawn from them in Pamphylia and had not gone with them to the work. 39 And there arose a sharp disagreement, so that they separated from each other.



- Neither Paul nor Barnabas backed down: sharp disagreement
 - Should Paul have accepted John Mark for the sake of Barnabas?
 - Should Barnabas have rejected John Mark to go with Paul?
 - Were both wrong?
 - The gospel was spread by both of them in different areas.
- Counting others more significant doesn't mean that capitulate to them in every circumstance.
 - It does not mean that I am insignificant.



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The Humble Child Counts Others More Significant

- 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by **becoming obedient** to the point of death, even death on a cross.



- Motivated by Love
- You might be exalted
 - refrain from burdening you
 - Because I love you.
- 2 Corinthians 11:7-11 (ESV) 7 Or did I commit a sin in humbling myself so that you might be exalted, because I preached God's gospel to you free of charge? 8 I robbed other churches by accepting support from them in order to serve you. 9 And when I was with you and was in need, I did not burden anyone, for the brothers who came from Macedonia supplied my need. So I refrained and will refrain from burdening you in any way. 10 As the truth of Christ is in me, this boasting of mine will not be silenced in the regions of Achaia. 11 And why? Because I do not love you? God knows I do!



Did I commit a
sin in humbling
myself so that
you might be
exalted?
2 Corinthians 11:7

The Humble Child Is Motivated By Love

- 7 Or did I commit a sin in humbling myself **so that you might be exalted**,
 - Grace!
 - Others More Significant!



Did I commit a
sin in humbling
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2 Corinthians 11:7

The Humble Child Is Motivated By Love

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2 Corinthians 11:7

The Humble Child Is Motivated By Love

- 11 And why? Because I do not love you? God knows I do!
 - Why did Paul humble himself?
 - Paul loved these saints so much that his focus was to help them be exalted no matter that it made his life more difficult.
- This is why Jesus humbled himself for us.
- Choosing to express our love to others, even when it makes our lives more difficult, is true humility.
 - Working toward their salvation.



- Receive this child
- Luke 9:46-48: 46 An argument arose among them as to which of them was the greatest. 47 But Jesus, knowing the reasoning of their hearts, took a child and put him by his side 48 and said to them, “Whoever receives this child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. For he who is least among you all is the one who is great.”



- When we are focused on greatness we often ignore those who most need our help and our attention.
 - Get close to the leaders, the pillars, the strong, the important
- When you think about being humble, look around at your brethren
 - Seek out the child: the weak, the struggling, the faltering, the sinning
 - Welcome the child: comfort, teach, encourage, admonish, rebuke
 - Love and Grace.

Whoever Humbles Himself

think with sober judgment
Romans 12:3

Considers

○ God's grace

○ clothed in humility

○ others more significant

○ motivated by love

○ welcomes children



- To be humble we must think differently than the world thinks
 - This is very difficult to overcome.
- Those who are humble depend on God's grace
- They are clothed in humility, showing grace to others
- They consider others more significant (not that I am insignificant!)
- They are always motivated by love, especially to exalt others
- They welcome the child, those who most need help.

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

2 Corinthians 5:20

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Whoever Humbles Himself - part 2

Matthew 18:4

Synopsis: This lesson continues the thoughts of what it means to be humble like a child. Now more positively, understanding that those who are humble depend on God's grace (not themselves), they are clothed in humility, count others more significant, are motivated by love and welcome the child.

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