

Dear Friend,

In last month's letter we looked at the first level of how to humble ourselves before the Lord. Humbling ourselves is a major key to walking more like Jesus walked. I still remember when the Holy Spirit said to me, "Jesus of Nazareth was the most humble man who has ever lived."

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.

By definition, a disciple is a person who is in training to become like his Master. Jesus is our Master and we need to humble ourselves in order to follow Him. Last month we looked at the first level of humbling ourselves when we become Christians. It is to learn the teachings of Christ and do what He said. If you did not receive last month's letter, you can find it at our website by clicking on this link: <http://www.garycarpenter.org/letters/1-GD2007.pdf>

As I was seeking the Lord concerning how to be more humble, the Holy Spirit said to me, "*The definition of humility is Romans 8:14.*"

Romans 8:14 For as many as are led by the spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

The Holy Spirit recently said to me, "*Jesus of Nazareth was the most humble man who ever lived.*"

Jesus was tempted in all points as we are, yet without sin. That means, one hundred percent of the time, He humbled himself to the dictates of the "light of life" that was on the inside of Him. That is humility. "Not my will, but thine be done." Jesus was saying He would never override the "light of life" that was within Him by the Father. Jesus said that those of us who follow Him into the new birth will have the same "light of life" that He had within Himself:

John 8:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

That "light of life" is what we often refer to as the new nature. It is the very nature of Christ we receive when we are born again. That new spirit born within us at the new birth is created, from the "get go," in righteousness and true holiness.

Ephesians 4:24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

A born-again person knows right from wrong. No man has to tell him lying and stealing is wrong. He knows those things are wrong by the new "nature" that has been born within him. Along with God writing his laws in our heart and minds when we are born again, He also gives us a conscience. If we start to violate the law of life by telling a lie, our conscience immediately begins to correct us. If we just "think" about stealing something, our conscience immediately communicates with us ... NO!

I call this process of hearing and obeying the conscience "The Mechanism Of Righteousness." It is wonderful. This is how God enables us to live righteous and holy in this fallen world. We follow the leadership of this new spirit born within us, and we allow the conscience to always be a safe guide. If we do that, and never violate our conscience, we will walk in righteousness and holiness by the grace of God:

Titus 2:11-12 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, (12) Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

God, by His love and His grace, has given us this new man on the inside. But He did not take away our free will. It is still our choice, every time, whether we will humble ourselves and yield to that new man and walk holy or not.

Until we come to the place where we always yield to the new nature, which is the very nature of Christ within us, we have not yet humbled ourselves to walk as sons. We may be "babes in Christ," which is how the apostle Paul described the carnal Corinthian church. But there is a vast difference between a baby that makes messes all the time and a son who has matured to the level of always following the new nature, which is actually, the very nature of Christ within us. For example, the new nature says, "Don't watch that movie." If we watch it anyway, that is the opposite of being humble. Thank God for 1 John 1:9. Thank God also for His longsuffering to us. Thank God His tender mercies are upon us, and that they are new every morning.

Lamentations 3:22-23 It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. [23] They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.

I say again, Jesus ALWAYS humbled Himself to obey the "light of life" that was within Him. That's how He humbled Himself so that He could be tempted in all points like we are, yet never committing sin. The more we mature to the level of living the same way, the more we are walking as mature sons of God. That is the second level of humbling ourselves; by always yielding in obedience to the "light of life," the very nature of Christ within us. Now you are walking as a mature son of God. (Rom 8:14)

Your friend and co-laborer,

GARY