

# Heart Attitudes for the Worship Choir

## III. THE FRAMEWORK: HUMILITY

*“But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word” (Isaiah 66:2b).*

*“Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another for God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time, he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you” (1 Peter 5:5-7).*

What is humility? Humility is honestly assessing ourselves in light of God’s holiness and our sinfulness.<sup>1</sup>

Humility is not a popular trait in the modern world. It’s not touted in the talk shows or celebrated in valedictorian speeches or commended in diversity seminars or listed with core values. And if you go to the massive self-help section at Barnes and Noble, you won’t find books on humility. The basic reason for this is not hard to find: humility can only survive in the presence of God. When God goes, humility goes.<sup>2</sup>

What is pride? Pride is when sinful humans aspire to the status and position of God and refuse to acknowledge their dependence on him.

1. Pride is Self-Satisfaction (Hosea 13:4-6).
2. Pride is Self-Reliance (Deuteronomy 8:11-17).
3. Pride Considers Itself Above Instruction (Jeremiah 13:9-10).
4. Pride is Insubordinate (Psalm 119:21).
5. Pride Takes Credit for What God Alone Does (Daniel 4:30-32).
6. Pride Exults in Being Made Much Of (Matthew 23:6).
7. Pride Aspires to the Place of God (Acts 12:21-23).
8. Pride Opposes the Very Existence of God (Psalm 10:4).
9. Pride Refuses to Trust in God (Proverbs 28:25).
10. Pride is Anxious about the Future (Isaiah 51:12-13).

The Key Principle: Do you enjoy being made much of or do you enjoy making much of God?

*\*Side Note* – Regarding the point of 1 Peter 5:5-7: “Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time.” How? In what way do you humble yourselves? Answer (v.7) – by “casting all your anxieties on him because he cares for you.” Casting all your anxiety on him means trusting in the promise that he cares for you and has the power and wisdom to put that care to work in the most glorious way.

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1. Definitions of *humility* and *pride* are taken from the book “Humility: True Greatness” by C.J. Mahaney.

2. Quote and Outline by John Piper, Sermon on 1 Peter 5:5-7, Used by permission of Desiring God Resources, [www.desiringgod.org](http://www.desiringgod.org).