**Changed Into His Image**

***Lesson Four: Getting in Your Place – 1 Pet. 5:5-11***

**Introduction**: One of man’s greatest problems is pride. Trusting in our own way defies the most basic fact of men’s creation: God made man dependent. Man cannot live joyfully and peacefully independently from God. Any change that will ultimately help a man must move him away from autonomy and must move him toward dependence upon his Creator. Peter emphasized humility as a key ingredient for those who would serve the Lord. Consider his words in 1 Peter 5:5-11.

By the end of this lesson you should be able to:

* Explain why a continual sense of dependence characterizes the Christlike believer.
* Explain why humility is the hallmark of the believer’s sense of dependence upon God.
* Identify several ways God humbles His children.
1. **Dependent by Design**
	1. God made man dependent.
	2. Any attempt to live independently from God is doomed to failure.
	3. Change must move man away from autonomy and toward dependence.
	4. Creation demands dependency.
		1. None of the following items were self-created: a space shuttle, house, automobile, superhighway. Because none of these items are self-created, none of them are

self-sustaining. They are dependent upon the one who made them.

* + 1. Man acknowledges that all creation demands dependency, but man rebels against the thought that somehow he is dependent upon his own Creator.
	1. Nebuchadnezzar illustrates the destructive nature of self-sufficiency. (Dan. 4)
	2. If you needed somebody to make you, you need somebody to maintain you.
1. **Humility – the Hallmark of Dependency**
	1. “Humility is simply [man’s] acknowledging the truth of his position as man and yielding to God His place.” – Andrew Murray
	2. No man who has been humbled before God is self-justifying, self-protective, or self-confident.
	3. Humility is the frame of mind a man possesses who is fully aware of his nothingness apart from God and of his sinfulness that would eternally separate him from God were not God willing to rescue him.
2. **Live the Christian Life the Same Way You Got It**
	1. Humility is not only the start of the Christian life; it is the start of everything godly in the Christian life.
	2. Be “clothed with humility.” Humility is to be a way of life for the believer.
	3. Our aversion to humility is a testimony of the poverty of our understanding of God’s ways.
	4. The introduction to Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount illustrates the prominent place of humility in the lives of His disciples. (Matt. 5:3)

Illus. The Low Man Wins. Any football coach will stress the importance of staying low. As the linemen take their place for the next play, their stance is low to the ground. Every running back understands the importance of staying low. They understand that if they try to run through the defense with the head up, they will quickly find the ground.

Appl. The “low man” wins in life as well. It is only as we are lifted up in pride that we are easily knocked down. We must acknowledge that there are issues of life that we cannot handle. We must get “low.” We must kneel in prayer to receive the Lord’s help. We must humble ourselves to acknowledge where we have been wrong. We must respond with humility when situations of life turn up the heat. Consider how this concept works in the following life situations:

* + 1. A trial comes your way.

No attribute of God is more emphasized in Scripture than His loving care for His people; yet no quality of God is doubted more than His love when we are under the burden of a difficult trial.

* + 1. You are faced with temptation to sin.
		2. You have a disagreement with a co-worker. (Prov. 15:1)
1. **How Does God Humble Us?**
	1. He can send us a problem we can’t handle to expose our helplessness.
	2. He can give us a command we won’t obey to expose our self-centeredness.
	3. He can arrange an outcome we can’t control to expose our sinfulness.
	4. He can show us Who He is to expose our finiteness.

“A man’s potential for God lies not in his ability, nor in his opportunity, but in his humility. God is not impressed with our abilities; they came from Him. He is not impressed with our opportunities; they are gifts from Him as well. He is pleased only with our humility; it testifies of our sense of dependency” (Berg 84-85).

1. **Application for Life Change**
	1. What situations of life have revealed your need to depend on God?
	2. What does God want you to say or do in your situation?
	3. Pray for God’s help to respond to the situation with Christ-like humility.