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THE BULWARK

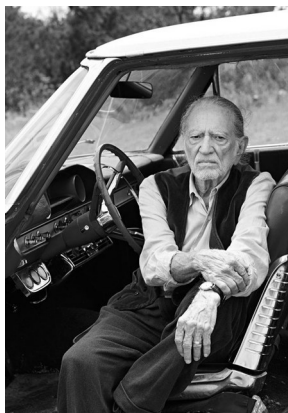
“HARD TO BE HUMBLE...”

After all it is only a song, but what must have been going through songwriter Mac Davis mind when he sat down and wrote the song, “It’s Hard To Be Humble”. Consider watching and listening to Willie Nelson croon, “...it’s hard to be humble when you’re perfect in every way.” Then without missing a beat and with a craggy face peering back at the camera he intones, “I can’t wait to look in the mirror because I get better looking each day. To know me is to love me...” Okay, I realize the song is sung with “tongue in cheek”, I mean after all have you seen Willie Nelson lately, is not going to win any beauty contest (then again, neither am I). To be humble begins when one awakens to a proper appreciation of self; and it doesn’t include self aggrandizing.

A humble person is one who is in possession of a character that is modest. One who is not self-seeking, does not act superior and values others without looking down on them. When in error, openly admits mistakes. Is open to feedback and is teachable. Exudes a quiet confidence and isn’t afraid to lift up another. It hard to be humble, but not because anyone of us is “perfect in every way”, rather our self serving sneaks in and be spoils the situation.

The child of God is directed to embrace a mind set of true humility as seen expressed in Philippians 2:5-8. “*Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, as He already existed in the form of God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but emptied Himself by taking the form of a bond-servant and being born in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself ...*” Clearly Jesus exemplified all that humility should be and is and what we are being called upon to do as explained by Paul earlier in the chapter noted above. “*Therefore if there is*

any encouragement in Christ, if any consolation of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility consider one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.” Aligning with one another in Christ and seeking out their best interests.



Jesus pointed out as recorded in Luke 14:11, “*For everyone who exalts himself shall be humbled, and he who humbles himself shall be exalted.*” Solomon in his writings in the

book of Proverbs states, “*Before destruction the heart of a man is haughty, but humility goes before honor.*” (18:12) So while it may be “hard to be humble” it is not undoable. In fact as you look at the Scriptures, it is quite doable, but demands a proper mind set. “*For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace.*” (Romans 8:6)

Blend in Ephesians 4:2, which states “*with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing forbearance to one another in love.*” and a fairly good picture of what constitutes the attitude a child of God must have comes into shape. This depiction is also expressed in Colossians 3:12. Peter as he draws to a conclusion his thoughts in his first epistle notes, “*Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you.*” (1Peter 5:6-7)

“*He has told you, mortal one, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justice, to love kindness, And to walk humbly with your God?*” (Micah 6:8) Really quite simple, isn’t it? (wbe)