

Avoiding False Hope and Pride

Commentary from Imitations of Christ

VAIN is the man who puts his trust in men, in created things.

Do not be ashamed to serve others for the love of Jesus Christ and to seem poor in this world. Do not be self-sufficient but place your trust in God. Do what lies in your power and God will aid your good will. Put no trust in your own learning nor in the cunning of any man, but rather in the grace of God Who helps the humble and humbles the proud.

If you have wealth, do not glory in it, nor in friends because they are powerful, but in God Who gives all things and Who desires above all to give Himself. Do not boast of personal stature or of physical beauty, qualities which are marred and destroyed by a little sickness. Do not take pride in your talent or ability, lest you displease God to Whom belongs all the natural gifts that you have.

Do not think yourself better than others lest, perhaps, you be accounted worse before God Who knows what is in man. Do not take pride in your good deeds, for God's judgments differ from those of men and what pleases them often displeases Him. If there is good in you, see more good in others, so that you may remain humble. It does no harm to esteem yourself less than anyone else, but it is very harmful to think yourself better than even one. The humble live in continuous peace, while in the hearts of the proud are envy and frequent anger—(Author Unknown).

Thoughts from Word for the Day

“[Let] nothing [be done] through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, [and] coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to [the point of] death, even the death of the cross.” (Philippians 2:3-8 NKJV)

How easy it is to think highly of oneself. Even on our best days all our righteousness is as filthy rags. We stand because of our faith in Christ. We are justified because He imputed His righteousness to us. Without that great act of love, everyone would be without hope. However, He did humble Himself that we might live. What a glorious thought to guide you through the day.

Prayer

Father, you are our righteousness. We praise you for the great sacrifice you made on our behalf for your glory. May we glorify you now by our submission! Forgive us when we go astray and gently draw us back to the narrow path. We ask in Jesus name, amen.