

James 4:10

Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

Some people have a total misunderstanding of what the word *humble* means. A lot of people think of it as feeling less of yourself, and they may base that not just on today's verse, but the verse right before it.

† **James 4:9** *Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom.*

But lamenting and mourning does not mean that you are to think less of yourself, and tears do not mean you are to belittle yourself. But still, people will put themselves down thinking they are being humble when they do.

If you really want to do a study on being humble, why not do a study on the humblest man who was on the earth, which the bible actually tells us who that was. You may be thinking the Sunday School answer of Jesus, which is true, but once again the bible does not call Jesus that, but the man who is called that, is probably the greatest Leader of the Children of Israel while they were in the wilderness, and that man is Moses.

† **Numbers 12:3** *(Now the man Moses was very humble, more than all men who were on the face of the earth.)*

Now we never read of Moses walking around saying what a scumbag he was and that he is the worst of the worst, because that is not what humble means. The KJV translates humble as meek which in the Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary, says:

Biblical meekness is usually not simply gentleness and humility but those qualities displayed with integrity during times of trial.

And we know how many trials Moses encountered leading the Children of Israel to the Promised Land, yet for 40 years, Moses kept his integrity.

Yet people will read today's verses: *Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up*, and see it as a means to belittle themselves in prayer and sometimes before others.

Words like, "**I am** so unworthy", "**I am** the lowest of low", "**I am** a scumbag" and I'm sure you can think of even more that you have come up with for yourself. But did you notice two tiny words in our example phrases that is said over and over when someone is trying to be humble? The words are "**I am**" and anytime you say "**I am**", who are you putting the focus on? That's

right, yourself, and if that is what you are doing then according to your definition, it's not being humble.

So, what does humble really mean then? I think the best definition I ever heard was: *Being humble is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less.*

You may want to read that again a little slower, and let it sink in.

Being humble is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less.

I know I have said it before, but God does not make junk, and if you are calling yourself a scumbag, you are calling what God created a scumbag, and do you really think He created you as a scumbag? Do you really think God is in heaven thinking, "Finally, you realize you are a scumbag, now I see you as humble." No, not at all.

† **Romans 9:20 (NLT2)** *No, don't say that. Who are you, a mere human being, to argue with God? Should the thing that was created say to the one who created it, "Why have you made me like this?"*

He may be thinking more like, "If only they could see themselves through my eyes, I don't see them as a scumbag, but as My wonderful creation" which I can say based upon scripture.

† **Psalms 139:14** *I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well.*

That does not sound like one of our "I'm a scumbag" statements about ourselves, now does it?

Once again Moses did not walk around with his head hung low feeling like he was useless, instead he held his head high, because he was looking up to the Lord and knew he was being used for the good of the people. But the humble part was that even though God had chosen him to lead the Children of Israel, he never, ever flaunted it. And, during the 40 years of leading Israel through the desert, Moses never had a power trip, but it was all about them and their needs, and never his own. And that's being humble.

† **Proverbs 11:2** *When pride comes, then comes shame; But with the humble is wisdom.*

† **Philippians 2:4** *Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.*