

### Transition from Enforced to Genuine Humility

God in His sovereignty determines whether or not to impute soul life to biological life at physical birth. When selection does occur human life results. The individual enters life physically alive but spiritually dead. His soul's stream of consciousness is tabula rasa while his sinful nature is fully functional. This condition of total depravity results in complete separation from God and judicial condemnation under divine justice. The child thus enters life in slavery to his sinful nature and under the delegated power and authority of his parents.

Parental policies become the equivalent of the Law and act as pedagogue in the development of enforced humility. Through the enforcement of these policies, parents perform the task of developing the child's conscience. Norms and standards of conduct based on a clear understanding of right and wrong begin the process of developing a vessel of honor.

As orientation to authority and willing acceptance of policy is achieved, then the parents may permit the child to slowly but surely come out from under the Law and function under grace. Where genuine humility has been achieved by the child, then his inner resources motivate right action. By age twenty, the child, in theory at least, should be capable of functioning in every aspect of his life under genuine humility.

Whether a person functions under enforced or genuine humility is what determines whether his lifestyle is oriented toward law or grace. Those who function under enforced humility are legalistic and only comply to imperative moods under the duress of fear and trembling—the fear is of pain and suffering, and the trembling is in anticipation of punishment. Those who function under genuine humility are grace oriented and comply to imperative moods from an inner motivation of reverence and respect—reverence toward God as supreme authority and respect for his policies to which they willingly comply.

In both cases, compliance with divine policy is achieved. But in the case of the former it is enforced while in the case of the latter it is genuine. Therefore, grace does not imply in any way that compliance with divine mandates is optional. In fact, under genuine humility, the believer has so oriented to the plan and will of God that he has made God's desires his own desires.

The grace-oriented believer not only understands the meaning and purpose behind the imperative moods but he is in willing and active agreement with them.

For example, the husband is commanded to love his wife in the same manner that Jesus Christ loved the church. The husband who functions under genuine humility understands the position of responsibility and accountability he has regarding his wife and willingly deals with her under the principle of unconditional love.

For example, the wife is commanded to submit to and respect her husband in the same manner that the believer submits to and respects the Lord. The wife who functions under genuine humility understands her position of supporter and assistant regarding her husband and willingly deals with him under the principle of deference.

And so, the child remains under the enforced humility of parental law until the development of the inner resource of genuine humility. As an unbeliever, the child remains under the Law's enforced humility which requires absolute righteousness.

If spiritual instruction from the parents has consistently accompanied establishment instruction, then eventually the child is able to face the fact that he is incapable of living a life of absolute righteousness. The development of genuine humility toward establishment contributes to his ability to achieve genuine humility toward the Gospel.

Once the child believes in Christ for salvation he does so under the principle of genuine humility.

Salvation cannot be achieved under enforced humility. Enforced humility toward the Gospel is the result of some form of coercion. Genuine humility means that the grace issues have been perceived and understood and that willing submission to God, His Word, and Christ as Savior has occurred.

This child has moved out from under the pedagogue of the Law and under the grace of God.