

Paths to Humility

Background

Why a forum dedicated to the topic of humility? Early Friends wrote in their journals, letters, and epistles about the importance of “walking in meekness and humility” if their contemporaries were to be fully open to the leadings of “the Indwelling Light”.

In our current day, humility often seems absent from our public discourse, whether about social, racial, and economic justice or in our day-to-day interactions with strangers and even with family and friends. Our language, our self-indulgence, our overwork, our compulsion to control – all suggest that *we* are strangers to humility.

Queries

1. What do we mean by the term “humility”?
 - a. Is it a goal to be achieved (via *paths to* humility)?
 - b. Is it something to be built into our daily lives (*paths of* humility)?
2. Is striving for humility consistent with humility itself?
 - a. Can we live in humility by our efforts and choices?
 - b. Or is grace a necessary ingredient in the recipe for humility?
3. What can practical humility look like in our everyday lives?
4. In what ways is humility “baked into” Friends’ testimonies?
 - a. What examples of simple living are reflective of humility?
 - b. Peace?
 - c. Integrity?
 - d. Community?
 - e. Equality?
 - f. Sustainability?
5. How do we proceed in humility in the very process in which we are engaged in this forum?
 - a. Are these queries of the Spirit? Are they reflective of Pure Wisdom? Or are they the product of human reasoning?
 - b. If the latter, how do we get from here to Spirit-led discernment about how to live in humility?