

## **“Beautifully Humble”**

“What Makes You Beautiful” by One Direction

Here’s another boy-girl song. There’s lots of those! It’s also a song about attraction, like Carly Rae Jepsen’s “Call Me” we did a couple of weeks ago. But, there’s an aspect of this song I want to focus on ... the thing that makes her SO beautiful in his eyes is that she’s not all caught up in herself, she’s humble, and she doesn’t really know she’s beautiful.

Let’s listen to the beginning of the song ... [Play snippet #1]

You're insecure, Don't know what for,  
You're turning heads when you walk through the door,  
Don't need make-up, To cover up,  
Being the way that you are is enough,

Let’s pause right here so I can say that humility is NOT insecurity. People confuse being humble with having a lack of self-confidence ... actually it takes a TON of self-confidence to be humble ... humility is intentional ... it’s a skill ... you can learn it and get really good at it!

Okay, let’s pick up the song again ... [Play snippet #2]

Everyone else in the room can see it,  
Everyone else but you,  
Baby you light up my world like nobody else,  
The way that you flip your hair gets me overwhelmed,  
But when you smile at the ground it ain't hard to tell,  
You don't know, Oh, oh,  
You don't know you're beautiful,

This song is pretty shallow. Not a lot of deep thinking going on here! For example, “the way that you flip your hair gets me overwhelmed.” Really? If all she has to do to “overwhelm you” is flip her hair, then you’ve got a pretty big problem!

But, here’s the thing about this girl that’s so terrific I think ... she lacks self-awareness. She’s NOT all wrapped up in herself. She’s not trying to be the center of attention, though she is. She lights up the lives of other people.

The song continues ... [Play snippet #3]

If only you saw what I can see,  
You'd understand why I want you so desperately,  
Right now I'm looking at you and I can't believe,

You don't know, Oh, oh,  
You don't know you're beautiful, Oh, oh,  
That's what makes you beautiful

In a society where people are so wrapped in themselves ... where selfishness is rampant ... it's so refreshing to meet a person who's just authentic, knows who she is, and has a sincere humility about her life.

Humility is one of those essential character traits that can make you, or break you, in life. I already said humility is a skill that can be learned and improved; so, let's talk about Four Habits you can practice that eat into your pride, and stubbornness ... and make you beautifully humble.

What is your definition of "humility"? C.S Lewis said, "Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it's thinking of yourself less."

Frank Lloyd Wright, famous architect, said, "Early in life I had to choose between honest arrogance and hypocritical humility. I chose the former and have seen no reason to change." What I really LIKE about this quote is that we're reminded that we get to choose our approach and attitudes to life ... I also like that Frank Lloyd Wright recognizes there is a false humility that should be avoided. The simple difference about between arrogance and humility is picking your standard. Against other mechanical engineers and architects [photo's of his work], Frank Lloyd Wright has every opportunity to choose arrogance ... against the Chief Engineer and Architect [photos of the LORD's design work!] Frank Lloyd Wright would hopefully choose humility.

What's the benefit of living humbly? Proverbs 22:4 (NLT) <sup>4</sup> True humility and fear of the LORD lead to riches, honor, and long life.

- Fortune.
- Fame.
- Favor.
- [And, at least in today's song, the label "beautiful."]

## **Four Habits of Humility**

### **1. Practice giving preference to others.**

Romans 12:10 (NLT), Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.

Romans 12:10 (MSG), Be good friends who love deeply; practice playing second fiddle.

The girl in our song doesn't like attention. She wants to be second fiddle ... [Play snippet 4]

So c-come on, You got it wrong,  
To prove I'm right, I put it in a song,  
I don't know why, You're being shy,  
And turn away when I look into your eye eye eyes,  
Everyone else in the room can see it,  
Everyone else but you,

She's not into all this attention ... he's even writing songs about her! Come on, guys ... ease up a bit. Humble people intentionally deflect attention away from themselves to others. They WANT to be second fiddle.

Practical application: James 1:19, My dear brothers and sisters, be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry.

## **2. Practice learning from others.**

Proverbs 15:32, If you reject criticism, you only harm yourself; but if you listen to correction, you grow in understanding.

Matthew 18:4, Therefore, anyone who becomes as humble as this little child is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Two key characteristics of a "little child" that will contribute to our own humility:

- Curiosity. The joy of discovery.
- Trust. The ability to depend on others.

Notice the reward mentioned in Matthew 18:4 ... "greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven."

## **3. Practice admitting when I'm wrong.**

Proverbs 28:13, "A man who refuses to admit his mistakes can never be successful, but if he confesses and forsakes them he gets another chance."

The key to this verse is the phrase "confesses and forsakes."

- Confessing. Agree with God about your mistake.
- Forsaking. Let go of the mistake and walk away from it.

## **4. Practice surrendering your plans to God's Word.**

Isaiah 66:2, "My hands have made both heaven and earth; they and everything in them are mine. I, the LORD, have spoken! 'I will bless those who have humble and contrite hearts, who tremble at my word.'"

There's a quality of brokenness in the life of humble people. They've trembled before God, realizing that HE is everything and they are nothing, by comparison.

**MAIN POINT:** Humility is the voluntary and consistent choice to put your life, plans, goals, and relationships under the authority of God, and the direction of His Word.

Why would you want to do that? Proverbs 22:4, "True humility and fear of the LORD lead to riches, honor, and long life."

A closing prayer ... "Dear God, we need You to call our attention to the needs of others instead of our own. We confess we too often place ourselves ahead of others. Build humility into each of us. Help us to play the very best second fiddle we can play! In Jesus' name, amen."