



Excerpt from *Christ Our Pascha*

Vainglory and its Opposite Humble-Mindedness

Vainglory (also known as vanity) is the passion for earthly and human glory, and all manner of honors. The root of vainglory is found in the person's dependence of what others think of you him or her. Manifestations of vainglory include intolerance of criticism, a refusal to acknowledge one's mistakes, and the constant desire for praise from others. Vainglory manifests itself in boasting of one's material achievements or intellectual abilities and talents, as well as bringing attention to one's spiritual accomplishments. (#774)

The virtue of humble-mindedness makes a person capable of perceiving oneself as a creature of its Maker and of living for God rather than for oneself. When one humbly accepts oneself as he or she is in God's eyes, that person becomes truly wise. The humble minded person accepts all things sent him or her by God and does everything for his glory. "Strive first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" (Mt 6:33). St. Isaac the Syrian teaches: "Humble mindedness is the raiment of the Godhead. The Word who became human clothed himself in it, and therewith spoke to us in our body. Every person who has been clothed with it has truly been made like unto him who came down from his own exaltedness." (#776)