

PROVERBS

Week 7: Wisdom and Pride

Primary Passages: Proverbs 8:13, 9:7-8, 14:6, 18:12 and 21:24

“Unchastity, anger, greed, drunkenness, and all that, are mere flea bites in comparison: it was through Pride that the devil became the devil. Pride leads to every other vice: it is the complete anti-God state of mind.”

- C.S. Lewis

LifeGroup Study Guide:

Recap: Have someone **read Proverbs 8:13, 9:7-8 and 18:12** and recap the big ideas from this week’s sermon.

- Compare and contrast how the Bible and our culture talk about pride (consider how our culture talks about self-esteem).
- In the sermon, we mentioned that pride can show itself in an arrogantly high view of self, but also in a self-consumed low view of self. Which of these do you tend to struggle with more? What root do both of these share in common?

Diagnosing Pride: Take some time to individually pray through these diagnostic questions.

- Are you easily angered or annoyed? _____.
- Are you easily offended? _____.
- Are you slow to ask for help when you need it? _____.
- When you are forgotten, neglected, or overlooked, do you feel a disproportionate sting and hurt at the insult? _____.
- How often do you compare yourself to others? (Consider intelligence, ability, looks, success, status, possessions, etc.) _____.
- Are you caught up in any secret sin and refuse to confess it because you’re concerned with how you would be viewed? _____.
- How much do you bring up yourself or make yourself the center of the conversation? _____.
- When you are corrected, is your first reaction to defend yourself and/or attack the other person? _____.
- At work, do you think more about how frustrating your job is or do you think more about how grateful you are that God has provided work for you? _____.
- How much of your life is marked by prayerlessness? (Prayerlessness exposes the prideful belief that you can handle life on your own.) _____.
- Are you holding any bitterness against anyone? (Bitterness is the prideful act of putting your pain above God’s command to forgive.) _____.

Confess: Work through the diagnostic questions as a group, confessing any that stood out as particularly insightful or apparent in your life. Encourage each other with the gospel.

Read Philippians 2:5-11. How does meditating on Jesus' highly exalted glory (v. 9-11) help us to have the same humility that Jesus walked in while on earth (v. 5-8)? How can we encourage each other to repent of our pride and walk in humility?

Pray for God's Spirit to give us eyes to see our pride.

Pray for our minds and hearts to be filled with an awe and love for Jesus that flows into natural concern and love for others.