



Practical Christian Living

Putting Pride in the Proper Place

Icebreaker: *What was the proudest moment of your life?*

Not All Pride is Bad:

Pride is not always an unhealthy thing in the Christian life. Several people in the Bible talked about pride as a positive and healthy thing.

2 Corinthians 7:4

Who does Paul take great pride in?

- The Corinthian Christians

Why is taking pride in someone else different than taking pride in self?

Galatians 6:1-4

But now Paul seems to say we should take pride in ourselves. How do we match that up with the fact that God does not want us to be proud (1 Peter 5:5-6)? Here in Galatians 6 Paul is saying that pride should not come from comparing yourself with someone else. Instead he says you can be proud of yourself when you have tested your actions and understand that you have done the right thing. This is taking pride not in our own accomplishment of righteousness but in the fact that God is working on our lives and for that we should be proud.

How is that a healthy kind of pride?

- It is recognizing God is working in and through us

Unhealthy Pride:

Healthy pride says, “Look what God has done in my life!” *What might unhealthy pride say?*

- Look at all the things I have done!
- How wonderful must I be to have done all of this myself!

What is the difference?

- Focus—when the focus is on self pride becomes an unhealthy thing. When the focus is on God and others pride can be a very healthy thing

1 Corinthians 10:12 & 1 Peter 5:5-6

What happens to people who have unhealthy pride in their lives?

- They will get put in the proper place all in due time.

Luke 14:7-14

Which attitude would Jesus have us assume—pride or humility? Why?

Who does Jesus encourage us to invite to the party?

- The poor, lame, crippled, blind, etc.

Why?

- Because they have nothing to offer in return.

That is important because it shows we invite people into our lives because we want them to be near to us and not because they have anything to offer us. They are valuable even if they have nothing to offer us.

When you invite those who are able to do something in return for you it can be more about “what’s in it for me?” than about the actual people who come. When you start to view other people that way you stop seeing them as people and start seeing them almost like impersonal robots who have been put on earth for our own purposes. That is wrong.

Because of that pride is a heart issue—when our eyes get so dulled from pride that we can only see ourselves we no longer see others as clearly as we ought.

Why does pride cloud our vision of others?

Pride is such a subtle sin. You cannot look at someone and tell they are prideful. It can be a very hidden issue of the heart that may not seem so serious. The problem often goes much deeper than we can imagine. We were never intended to view people like objects.

Application:

What are some things you have had a healthy pride for?

- We sing the song “Because He Lives” and it has the line “How sweet to hold a newborn baby and feel the pride and joy he gives.” We can be proud of our children and of our God.

What are some things you have had an unhealthy pride for?

What kind of smoke-screens have you been able to put up to conceal the fact that you struggle with pride?

Have you ever struggled with seeing people for what they can do for you rather than who they are?

How can you better view them as real people God loves rather than as one more person who can do something for you?