

"God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble" James 4:6

What is Pride?

Believing that I am more important, that my rights are worth more than those of the other.

- Arrogance puts the emphasis on "oneself."
- Humility puts the emphasis on God and others.
- Pride asks, "What can you do for me?"
- Humility says, "What can I do for you? How can I serve you?"

What does Pride produce?

Knowledge (1 Corinthians 8:1-2)
Possessions (1 Timothy 6:17)
Abilities (Deuteronomy 8:18)
Power (2 Chronicles 26:16)
Youth (James 4:13-16)
Accomplishments (2 Kings 19:23-26)
Culture (John 4:9)

Opportunities and gifts all come from God, it is easy to deceive ourselves by trusting ourselves and not in the giver of the gifts.

What do they have that God has not given them? And if everything they have comes from God, why do they boast as if it were not a gift? 1 Corinthians 4:7

Pride precedes a fall or failure.

Pride goes before destruction, and arrogance before fall. Proverbs 16:18

What IS humility?

1. Humility is a complete dependence on God.

With my hands I made both heaven and earth; They're mine, with everything in them. I, the Lord, have spoken! "I will bless those who have a humble and repentant heart, those who tremble at my word. Isaiah 66:2

Example of David: Remember, David seemed arrogant, yet his ability came from God look what he says.

The same Lord who rescued me from the claws of the lion and the bear will rescue me from this Philistine! 1 Samuel 17:37

"A key expression of such humble dependence is prayer."

Example of Daniel the prophet, When I wanted to understand a prophecy of Jeremiah.

Then he said, "Don't be afraid, Daniel. From the first day you began to pray for understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your request was heard in heaven. I have come in answer to your prayer. Daniel 10:12

How much revelation do we lose simply because we don't ask God to show us inscrutable things?

Ask Me and I will let you know amazing secrets that you do not know about what is to come. Jeremiah 33:3

When we fast and pray, we are confessing our weakness and expressing our dependence on God... that is humility.

2. Humility is being teachable.

Pride leads to conflict; Those who follow the counsel are wise. Proverbs 13:10

Our lives aren't long enough to learn everything ourselves.

We should want to learn as much as we can from others.

If you feel resistance (to be in a GP, ask, is it pride?)

Strive to be able to stand before God and receive His approval. Be a good worker, someone who has nothing to be ashamed of and who correctly explains the word of truth. 2 Timothy 2:15

"We can't do it alone."

Why do we need humility?

1. God dwells with the humble.

The High and Majestic One who lives in eternity, the Holy One, says: "I live in the high and holy place with those of a repentant and humble spirit. I restore the shattered spirit of the humble and rekindle the courage of those with a repentant heart. Isaiah 57:15

You enter that place through the door of humility.

2. God entrusts His work to the humble.

David's example: In his youth, God allowed for several trials in his life... he spent his time fleeing from King Saul. David was learning to depend solely on God, this was God's training regimen for David, although

But God removed Saul and replaced him with David, a man of whom God said, "I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my own heart; He will do everything I want him to do." Acts 13:22

Humility is essential to hearing God's voice and obeying it. He got to the point where he said, "If God doesn't say it, I won't do it".

"The greater the calling and the greater the assignment from God, the greater the humility required."

How do we acquire humility?

Humiliating Us

So, humble yourselves before the great power of God, and in due time he will raise you up with honor. 1 Peter 5:6

We must take every opportunity to humble ourselves before God and others.

Where do we start?

First: We need to identify pride in ourselves:

We all struggle with pride, and this must be confessed, but ask yourself: see the questions below in the GPs section.

Second: Confess any element of pride identified by you and by the Holy Spirit.

Third: Pray for the desire and ability to be more humble in the affected area.

For God works in you and gives you the desire and the power to do what pleases Him. Philippians 2:13

Fourth: Live in a spirit that is opposed to pride.

Humility will begin to form in your life in the same way that all character is formed.

In the same way, you younger ones have to accept the authority of the elders; and all clothe themselves humbly in their dealings with one another, for " God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." 1 Peter 5:5

BLESSED HUMILITY

PAZ GROUPS

Getting to know us:

Share with confidence a moment where you realized that you acted or expressed yourself with pride. Remember, we all struggle with this.

What has pride stolen from you?

Inside the Bible:

Let's read two key passages in Sunday's teaching:

James 4:1-10, 1 Peter 5:1-6.

Why do you think God values humility in us?

What is the requirement to receive God's grace?

What do you mean by God's resistance to the proud? James 4:6.

Do you think your attitude in some matter is attracting the grace of God or God's resistance?

How do we humble ourselves before the Lord?

What is the reward of humbling ourselves before the Lord?

Peter mentioned humility as an attitude that puts others first, thinking of their needs and ideas as something worth paying attention to. Read Philippians 2:3-4.

Why is it nice to live with someone who is humble and not so nice with someone proud?

What other things did these passages speak to you in particular?

Application for Life:

So, humble yourselves before the great power of God, and in due time he will raise you up with honor.1 Peter 5:6

Let's go over the questions to identify pride in us:

1. Read the questions aloud and each one analyzing them in his or her heart.

Is my life characterized by pride?

Is it a discernible pattern in my life?

Can I see it?

Does my spouse see it?

What about my friends or colleagues?

Am I teachable?

Am I eager to learn from others, or am I bothered by having to learn from others?

Do I submit to those who have spiritual leadership over me? Or do I have a tendency to resist externally or internally? Do I pretend to submit but then go and do what I know I want to do?

Do I depend on God through Prayer, or do I depend on my abilities and experiences to get things done?

Is my life characterized by praying for all things and in all situations? Ephesians 6:18 or do I just keep a short time of superficial prayer each day?

Am I culturally humble? Or do I get defensive if someone points out the shortcomings of my culture? Am I culturally arrogant and act superior to those in other cultures?

Do I treat everyone equally, no matter what their position in life? Or do I feel or even act superior to them?

Do I have compassion for those who are poor or uneducated, or do I take advantage of them or ignore them? Do I treat the rich or educated differently from others?

Am I critical? Do I have a suspicious spirit about many people? Am I often critical of others?

Am I trying to draw attention to myself?

Do I boast about my accomplishments? Or do I give due credit to God and the contributions of others?

Do I obey God in everything?

2. Confess in front of the group any element of pride identified by you and by the Holy Spirit. You don't have to go into too much detail.

3. Take time to pray for one another, for the desire and ability to be humbler in the affected area.

For God works in you and gives you the desire and the power to do what pleases Him. Philippians 2:13

Family Altar: Share as a family, how teachable are we as a family? Do we listen to each other? Do we learn from each other? Do we notice a willingness to learn from others outside the family? Do we notice that pride is rearing its head in the family dynamic?