

Foolproof- Week #3
The Pride Ride
Small Group Notes
January 14 and 17, 2021

Introduction:

Read this saying about pride: Pride is the dandelion of the soul. Its root goes deep, only a little left behind sprouts again. Its seeds lodge in the tiniest encouraging cracks. And it flourishes in good soil: The danger of pride is that it feeds on goodness.

Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Why?

What is the difference in having pride for a team or in finishing a task versus pride that can be damaging to relationships?

Take the Pride Test as a group:

1. Do worship and ministry play second fiddle to your career, hobbies, and interests?
2. Does it irritate you when someone corrects your faults?
3. Does it bother you when others succeed?
4. Do you find it difficult to admit when you are wrong?
5. Are you constantly putting yourself down? (False humility)

For today's discussion we are going to see how wisdom and foolishness boil down to two issues of the heart: humility and pride. While humility leads to grace and pride leads to rebellion that can impact our relationship with the Lord.

Discuss:

1. Understanding the Dangers of the Pride Ride

- Read Proverbs 16:18-19; Proverbs 6:16-19; Proverbs 13:10
- Pride leads to destruction.
- Pride angers God.
- Pride distances us from God.
- Pride distances us from others.

Explain: God is opposed to the proud ([James 4:6](#) and [1 Peter 5:5](#)) and the proud man or woman is an abomination to God ([Proverbs 16:5](#)). With God so set against the proud, no wonder that **pride goes before destruction**. One of the many ways that **pride** is evident is in a **haughty spirit**—an attitude that communicates superiority over other people. Those who think themselves higher than others are ready to **fall** under the fair judgment of God. A **humble** life, however, among the **lowly** is **better** than having reward (**spoil**) among **the proud**. This is because **proud** people are not pleasant company, and because it is never good to join those whom God is set against.

Ask:

What are ways that you have seen pride be a destroyer? How can the road to reconciliation from pride be hard?

What does it mean that a part of all sin is rooted in pride? How have you seen this truth played out in your life?

Who is the most humble person you know? What could you emulate about his or her life? How does cultivating a humble heart keep us away from jealousy and conflict with others?

2. Getting Off the Pride Ride.

- Read Proverbs 29:23; Philippians 2:5-10; Proverbs 27:2
- Realize the secret!
- Value Christ-esteem over self-esteem
- Let others correct you.
- Let others commend you.

Explain: While Solomon provides the consistent testimony that the only end of pride is humiliation. We also see from Christ's example an example of the paradox of Christianity in that humility is to occur. Paul pointed to Christ's love for others and His obedient service to God as examples for His Philippian friends. We are to live with an attitude of humility as we relate to others. With a healthy, balanced view of ourselves, we neither think too highly nor too little of ourselves. Our response then is a realization that the correct that is provided is not to bring about shame, rather it is for our benefit and development.

Ask:

Why is it up to believers to be examples of humility in a fallen world? What does that look like?

What are ways that social media plays into self-promotion? How can believers get caught up into it? What should we use our social media for then?

Is there someone who you admire who has demonstrated integrity or good character? How could you communicate to them that they have been influential to you?

Do:

How will you take time this week to examine your heart for pride?

In what situations does pride most often arise in your spirit? How can you hold each other accountable as a group to help in these moments?

How will you allow Jesus' finished work on the cross overflow into your heart? How will Christ's sacrifice help you overcome pride this week?