

Counterpunch

Avoiding the Knockout Punch of Pride- Session #4

Small Group Notes

Introduction:

Do you remember a movie where a villain thought that they had the upper-hand and then a hero came back? What are times that you feel like the villain? The hero?

Have you ever had a life-changing moment that was caused by you or someone else's pride? What did you learn about yourself in that experience?

How have you seen pride impact your faith?

Discuss: 2 Chronicles 26:3-23

I. Taking the Pride Test

- When looking at a picture do you find yourself first?
- Does it really bother you when others correct you?
- Do you struggle with anger?
- When others around you succeed does it bother you?
- Do you often interrupt others?
- In a meeting, do you love your ideas the most?
- Is your prayer life weak?
- Do you often tear yourself down so others might build you up?

Explain: We all have things that we are good at—ways that God has gifted us, natural talents we possess, and skills we've developed over time. These are things that we should share with others because they are often ways that we can serve people and bring glory to God, no matter how insignificant they may seem. However, there is a difference between delighting in success and being prideful of it. Pride is self-worship, a commitment to ourselves and our own way, and it is the opposite of faith in and commitment to God. In fact, pride is the root of all other sin, and the more our pride grows, the further we push ourselves away from God.

Ask:

How did you do on the pride test? Were there any areas that revealed themselves that you were unaware of?

Were there any questions that you know but you haven't sought to change?

What is the difference between being good at something and broadcasting your success or ability to the world?

II. The Problem with Pride

1. Pride is living life with an inverted focus
2. Pride is foolish. Proverbs 11:2
3. Pride angers God! Proverbs 16:5
4. Pride distances you from God. Psalm 138:6
 - Sinful pride is an elevation of ourselves above others and denial of our need for God.
5. Pride distances you from others.
6. Pride either started the problem or kept the problem from being solved.
7. Pride is expensive.

Explain: Read 2 Chronicles 26:1-15. Among the successes God granted Uzziah while he was king were military conquests, the building of towns, extensive farming, and the expansion of his army. Verse 15 tells us that as a result of this success, “his fame spread even to distant places, for he was marvelously helped until he became strong.”

Ask:

What strengths of Uzziah does the Chronicler point out when telling us about this teenage king?

Explain: Read 2 Chronicles 26:16-23. Uzziah had always been a strong leader, and this had enabled him to do great works. But as is often the case with strong leaders, this virtue gave way to a headstrong, I-can-do-no-wrong attitude. It was precisely his strength that blinded him to the audacity of his action. Uzziah’s pride was expressed in usurping the role of the priest. Only the priests were to burn incense.

Ask:

How did pride affect Uzziah? Read Exodus 30:1-10; Numbers 16:40; and Numbers 18:1-7 to get a sense of what Uzziah did wrong.

How did Uzziah respond when the priests tried to speak God’s truth to him? What additional insight does this give us into how pride affected him?

III. Keys to Exiting the Pride Ride

1. Have a correct view of yourself
 - a. Humility is having a correct estimation of who we are apart from Christ. James 4:6
2. Admit your pride to the Lord and to a trusted friend
3. Let others commend you. Proverbs 27:2
4. Let others correct you. Proverbs 13:10; Proverbs 10:8
5. Be willing to serve others. Philippians 2:5-11

Explain: In our relationship with God, pride communicates a dependence on ourselves, rather than dependence on God. God created us to need Him and to live in daily

surrender to Him, but pride makes that impossible. Humility, on the other hand, is the appropriate response to an accurate understanding of who we are and who God is. It is an appropriate response to our reflection on God's grace and love for us.

Ask:

Read Proverbs 3:5-8. What does it look like to "trust in the LORD with all your heart"? How does this type of faith help you combat pride?

How do we benefit from acknowledging our limitations before God?

Is pride something you are quick to recognize in yourself? If not, what are some Scriptures or statements you can pray to ask God to make you more aware of pride and its influence on you?

Group Prayer Guide

- **Local**
 - **Endure Athletics Pray for protection and safety for the kids we work with.**
- **National**
 - **New Creation Church New York Pray that the Lord would give the people of Granville and the surrounding towns "ears to hear" and "eyes to see" the beauty of Jesus and their need to repent of their sin and turn and trust in Him.**
- **International**
 - **AMAZON PEOPLES OF THE AMAZON RIVER BASIN. While the Naka people know many Bible stories, many are still trapped in patterns of sin. Pray that they will receive the whole gospel and be transformed in thought and in deed.**

Upcoming Serving Opportunities: Servant Saturday- September 24; Collect cleaning supplies for Journey Home and Last Call for Grace.