

Pride and Humility

Pastor Paul Springer | *Proverbs for Practical Living* series: Week 1
May 27, 2018 | Spring Cycle: Week 7 of 10

Personal Connection (25 minutes)

Icebreaker

Do you enjoy watching reality TV shows featuring aspiring singers? If so, what are some of the most memorable personality types highlighted through the rigors of many rounds of competition?

Sharing Christ and Praying for Each Other

Have you had a faith-based conversation with someone this week?

What prayers and petitions can the group bring before God for the highs you've felt this week as well as the lows you've experienced?

Review Last Sunday's *What Now?*

Last week we considered the Apostle Paul's teaching on spiritual warfare and the imagery of dressing to fight it. Getting dressed in the morning can become a reminder of preparing for battle. His protection comes through his Holy Spirit living in you and that should embolden you to share the gospel. The enemy is strong, but our Savior is stronger, more powerful! The battle is ALREADY won! Pray that the Lord would increase your understanding about and faith in his protection and that he would equip you to live a life that brings him glory.

Digging Deeper (30 minutes)

This Week's Key Concept:

Pride prevents us from flourishing as our Creator intended. Our identity as Christ's followers lies in the reality that he allowed us into his presence to experience his abundant design, not because we earned admittance.

Read Proverbs 3:5-12 and Proverbs 15:33

Q1. What is the relationship between fear of the Lord and humility?

Q2. What does humility look like? Or, how do we embody Christ when behaving humbly?

Q3. In Proverbs 3:6, it says, "In all your ways, acknowledge him, and he will make your path straight." What are some of "your ways" that you find it difficult to give up control over?

Q4. How would you define wealth? What does "honoring the Lord with your wealth" look like?

Read Proverbs 15:25, 16:5, and 11:2

Q5. How does the Lord help you to deal with your pride? Have you ever been treated like a servant, that is, without appreciation or with condescension?

Q6. What is the punishment for pride?

Read Proverbs 18:12, 22:4, and 30:1-4

Q7. Have you ever failed to listen to someone's advice and ended up regretting it? Did others see your mistake? How did that make you feel?

Q8. How are you likely to respond when others expect you to be knowledgeable about something but you realize that you don't know the answer?

Q9. How do you cope with the Lord's timing when you are waiting for an answer to your prayers?

Impact Questions

Q1. What is the natural outgrowth of pride? Of humility? Are you able to discern any of these results in your own life? *(Note: If it's difficult to talk about the results of your own humility, allow group members to discuss what they have observed in your life.)*

Q2. What are your own pitfalls for pride (intellect, appearance, wealth, security, possessions, skills, status, etc.)? How can you pursue humility in these areas?

Q3. Do you think our natural human desire to control our own lives is directly linked to issues of pride? Explain your thoughts.

What now? (15 minutes)

Many of our sin patterns are rooted in pride. Please prayerfully ask the Lord to expose your prideful habits and thoughts so that you more closely resemble him. Growing in the Lord is a process. His example of complete perfection is one we strive for, but when we try to go about it without him, not only do we fail, but we are telling God we think we can do a better job with our lives than he can. We often forget that his perfect Spirit dwells within us, and when we rely on that knowledge, pride's stronghold is loosened. Live in complete submission to his Lordship in your life!

Closing Prayer (15 minutes)

Pray for each other's voiced prayer requests and praises, as well as over those that remain silent.

Pray for Northwest to be a sending church, recognizing that our Lord calls us out into his harvest.

Pray for protection over those who are obediently stepping into the mission field Christ is calling them to engage.

Pray for our president and all those around the world who are in places of authority, as God's word instructs us to do.

Sermon Notes: