



GETTING BETTER AT LOVE

Dealing with Pride

Message by Pastor Kevin Cavanugh
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LEADER'S STUDY GUIDE



WATCH FOR LEADER'S TIPS

DEALING WITH PRIDE

Pride by its very nature is a distorted view of oneself.

*In his pride the wicked man does not seek him; in all his thoughts there is no room for God. **Psalm 10:4***

*My adversaries pursue me all day long; in their pride many are attacking me. **Psalm 56:2***

*When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom. **Proverbs 11:2***

*Where there is strife, there is pride, but wisdom is found in those who take advice. **Proverbs 13:10***

*Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall. **Proverbs 16:18***

*My heart is not proud, LORD, my eyes are not haughty; I do not concern myself with great matters or things too wonderful for me. **Psalm 131:1***

*Those who surround me proudly rear their heads; may the mischief of their lips engulf them. **Psalm 140:9***

*In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, “God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.” **1 Peter 5:5***

7 Ways to Discern the Level of Pride in our Hearts

1. Pride is exceptional at **FAULT** finding.

Spiritual pride causes us to talk about other people's weaknesses and sins behind their back with laughter or contempt, frustration or irritation.

a) **How** have you spoken of your friends with other friends, your family with other family members? Your co-workers with other co-workers, your church, with other church members?

b) **How** often did your conversation have critical or negative overtones to it? Lots, some, little, none?

2. **Pride** has a **HARSH** spirit.

Those who have the sickness of pride actively growing in their hearts often speak of leaders harshly, critically, and judgmentally.

- a) Who have you elevated yourself above this week by speaking harshly, critically, or judgmentally? It will likely be hard for you to do, but take 3-minutes to write down the names or initials of the people you have spoken this way about?

3. **Pride** is big on **FAKING** it with people.

When pride lurks in our hearts we are far more concerned with others' perception of us than the true reality of the real condition of our hearts.

- a) Think about who's approval spiritually means a lot to you? How do you speak, act, or behave differently when you are around them?

4. Pride is easily **OFFENDED**.

True humility feels no need to defend itself.

a) Is there a difference between explaining and defending?

b) When faced with conflict how quickly do you move into a defensive posture? (circle one)

Often, Sometimes, Rarely, Never

c) How often do you find yourself thinking about what people said, what they really meant, or why they said it? (circle one)

Often, Sometimes, Rarely, Never

d) My feelings are hurt easily? (circle one)

Often, Sometimes, Rarely, Never

5. Pride is **PRESUMPTUOUS** before God.

Humility approaches God with humble confidence in Christ Jesus. *Worship the Lord with reverence, and rejoice with trembling. Psalm 2:11*

On the other hand sometimes due to our own sin and failure we can feel little to no confidence before God.

a) My tendency is to be (circle one):

OVERLY BOLD / LACK CONFIDENCE

b) What could you do or say that could bring things into greater balance?

6. Pride is hungry for **ATTENTION**.

Pride is hungry for attention, respect, and worship, in all its forms.

a) How hungry are you for attention? Rate yourself

L - 1 2 3 4 5 - H

b) Now try and think through the eyes of those around you. How do you think they would rate you?

L - 1 2 3 4 5 - H

7. Pride NEGLECTS others. *Worship the Lord with reverence, and rejoice with trembling.* **Psalm 2:11**

- a) Is there a thrill that goes through you when people with 'power, prestige, or authority acknowledge you?

- b) How do you speak to and or treat ordinary people or those whom the world deems broken or useless?



Close by praying for the group.

