

Pride

Pride in Relationships

Last week we were wrapped in disgusting that we could have issues of pride. Yes! it was hard to get through, but I feel it was the most necessary lesson we've had so far. We know that God resists the proud and that pride comes before a fall. Remember that God disciplines those he loves. It can be hard to hear at first, but we should rejoice in this! When God reveals blockages in our relationship with Him, ourselves and others; it's because what he's trying to bring you in in your next season could have been thwarted by the very issue you weren't seeing on your own. God doesn't give temporary blessings. He wants to set you up to have His promises for you for a lifetime. He is equipping you to live life and live it more abundantly with whatever he is providing in the season. Accept His teachings and apply them to your life so that he can elevate you and bring you in deeper relationship with him.

How Does Pride Affect Your Relationships?

Relationships With Other People

As we discussed last week, Pride is the cause of some negative interpersonal skills we engage in. By letting Pride have space in our lives, it can block interactions and the proper heart posture that God intended for us to have to show others His Heart.

People Pleasing
Comparison
Envy
Hyper Critical
Judgmental
Blame Shifting
Easily Offended

Trust Issues
Poor Listening Skills
Fear of Vulnerability
Condescension
Gossip
Selfishness
Contention

What Does God Say About How We Are to Interact With Others?

Love One Another John 15:12 Ephesians 4:12 Mark 12:31 Luke 6:31 1 Corinthians 13:4-7	1 Thessalonians 5:11 Comparison, Gossip, Envy Philippians 2:3 Judge mental Matthew 7:3-5
Comparison, Gossip Proverbs 24:17 Romans 15:1,2 Ephesians 4:29	People Pleasing Matthew 10:37 Psalm 51:4 Proverbs 29:25 Galatians 1:10 1 Thessalonians 2:4
Contention Romans 12:18	

Pride can make it so that we either put ourselves before others or vice versa, either way the one we should be pleasing is God. Always trying to control our own narrative & refusing to be honest with ourselves robs us of true connection with ourselves, others, and most importantly, God. Comparing, Judging, looking down on others, and gossiping are all ways we block our own blessings. We become consumed in others lives and what they have that we miss what God has for ourselves. We learned weeks ago how important our words are to God. In Ephesians 4 we learn how important our words are to God & that they have the power to strengthen and uplift others. With bitterness, envy, or haughtiness in our hearts, the words we speak come from the insecurities in our heart. Being hyper critical, condescending, self righteous, or offended keeps us from being able to show those we don't see eye to eye with God. If we can't see people

as God does despite their sins as God sees us, we can't show others the character of God.

Relationship With God

The Bible says multiple times how God resists the proud. Pride can keep us from the humility required to admit when we are wrong and truly repent. If we think we are better than others or that we are perfect, God has no room to reveal your weaknesses to you so He can be your strength. Keeping God out of an area whether it's consciously or unconsciously keeps Him from being able to lead you into His purpose for Your life. Not operating in humility, which attracts God doesn't allow us to receive the things He is doing to guide us, restore us, & heal us.

If We Think We Can Do Any Areas Of Our Lives Without Him, That Is Textbook Pride.

If we truly realized just how much we need and rely on Gods goodness, wisdom, & grace in our lives, worshipping, reading the Word, praying, getting into community, tithing, etc wouldn't be things we do on occasion or when we find time for them. Sometimes the lack of your prayer life or relationship with God in our daily lives can be you thinking you have your life figured out on your own, struggles with too full of self or idols, control issues, praying and having a plan B etc Pride makes room for us to doubt God and the word says If we come to God we must first believe He EXISTS and is a rewarded of those who earnestly seek Him.

Peter was overly confident in his own ability to serve God so much so that God prayed that Peters faith remained in tact after he failed by denying Jesus 3 times. Without knowing, Peter relied in His own strength & also couldn't receive God's revelation that He would deny Him.

God can speak to a humble person. He can answer your prayers, give you direction, & trust you with the blessings &

purpose He has for you. sometimes that is what is holding us back!

Relationship with Yourself

Pride is deeply rooted in unworthiness and insecurity. We need to be able to admit and find the sources of these feelings in our life. God wants to enter in and restore you to make you whole and heal you so that you can get deeper in relationship with him.

This week I want you to journal where these feelings came from in you. Why is it that you feel you need to control the narrative of your life? Why is that you feel you want people to look at you as if you have it all together? Where did that come from? Why are you afraid of being vulnerable or appearing to have failed in any way to other people? Why do you care so much about what people think or say about you?

What would be so wrong With people seeing that you're human? . To reach others and show others the heart of God we must be able to relate to them, and who can relate to a perfect person who never struggles. We can only be inspirational and motivational to others if they see where we have come from and what we have grown into. Your testimony lies in your weakest moments. The Bible says that God is made strong in our weaknesses and if we are unwilling to show them then God has no room to operate in our lives, So spend this week searching yourself. Sometimes we have been trying to paint this narrative of who we are for so long, that we can't even be honest with ourselves.

Find the places in yourself that are hard to admit, the things that you're ashamed of, the things that you struggle with or have caused you trauma as a child or even as an adult. Ask God to come in restore and heal those things. The battle is not

our own, but it is God's. He told us to cast our cares so give it to him and allow him to do the work in you but do your part by searching yourself to find where pride began.

Discussion

1. How does Pride affect you most when interacting with others? With Yourself? With God?
2. Be Honest. How do you want others to see you? How do you see yourself? Do you care just as much what God thinks of you?
3. Why do you think you are afraid of appearing, weak or vulnerable? What's the worst thing that could happen if people saw this side of you?
4. What areas of your life do you pray about most? What areas do you pray about the least or never?
5. Is there anything new you noticed that God has revealed to you in discussing Pride you never admitted to have a problem with before?