

Proverbs 22:4 "The reward for humility and fear of the Lord is riches and honor and life."

When I first got into the construction trade in the late 1990's I really didn't know much about the industry. This made it very exciting and also very overwhelming. Many of the people I worked alongside had either grown up in the trades or at least had a background in industry practices, so I always felt like I was one step behind everyone. As a young man trying to make a name for myself, I absolutely hated asking for help or advice in any situation on the jobsite. Looking back, it was foolish and prideful, but that is how I thought as an insecure young man.

I worked for a small, private home repair company called IMMACULATE Construction in my early years of marriage. We did a variety of home repairs and remodels in the greater Pierce County Area. One afternoon, I was sent to a home in Tacoma to pressure wash their cedar shake roof. Before I left the shop, my boss reminded me to wear "corkers" over my boots. I had no idea what a "corker" was, and instead of asking, I told him I would and went to the job.

When I arrived, I rolled out my equipment, set up the ladder, put on my rubber boots and went up on top of the split level home. Not 10 minutes into the project, I realized the cedar was getting slick and I was losing my footing. Another 5 minutes later, I slipped completely and slid right off the roof and landed in the bushes. Fortunately, I was young enough to not take any severe damage and finished the job from the ladder. When I returned to the shop, my boss came up to me with a pair of what looked like spiked boot souls with straps on them. He asked why I forgot the "corkers". Turns out, "corkers" were straps you put on the bottom of your boots that had spikes that would keep you from slipping on the roof and wouldn't damage the shingles. But since I didn't know, and didn't want to look foolish, I didn't bring them with me. Oh, the trouble I would have saved myself.

We do this with our God don't we? We don't want to admit our sin or our mistakes, or we don't want to admit we need his wisdom into a situation. We refuse to go to him in confession or go to a brother or sister in Christ and we try to handle things alone. This is prideful and damaging. What if we could swallow our pride, take correction or instruction? The result would be peace and fulfillment, not embarrassment or guilt.

Let's consider these thoughts this week and ask the Holy Spirit for the humility to admit we cannot live this Christian life alone!

I Love You and God Loves You!

Pastor Eric Lundberg