

Study Guide  
RelationSHIFTS — The Ride of Pride  
Pastor Bobby Davis

Our lives are made up of relationships. Some examples include – husbands and wives; parents and children; employees and employers; coworkers and friendships. Our lives are only as good as our relationships, and everyone can work on making their relationships better.

Pastor Bobby mentioned that there is a cancer that will kill relationships — pride.

**Do you agree that pride is a cancer to relationships?**

**What happens if both people in a relationship are mainly focused on the happiness of self?**

**What happens if both people in a relationship are mainly focused on the happiness of the other?**

**What happens if both people in a relationship are mainly focused on God?**

The center of all sin is pride, and the center of pride is “I”.

**Read Isaiah 14:12-15.**

**What was Satan’s focus in this passage?**

The opposite of pride is humility, and we see the example of humility in Christ.

**Read Philippians 2:3-9.**

**What was Jesus’ focus while He was on earth?**

The focus of humility is others, and the center of others is “HE”.

**How can we win the fight of pride in our lives?**

There are two main forms of pride, and both have the same root issue — they are “me” focused:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ I am better than others.

This form of pride come from being over elevated.

**Have you ever struggled with being over elevated?**

**What did that do to your attitude or self-esteem?**

2 Corinthians 10:12 (NKJV)

*For we dare not class ourselves or **compare ourselves** with those who **commend themselves**. But they, **measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.***

Romans 12:3 (NLT)

*Because of the privilege and authority God has given me, I give each of you this warning: Don’t think you are better than you really are. **Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us.***

To get an accurate evaluation of ourselves according to faith, we must move from > < to +.

Our cost was the cross — that is where we find our worth (and the worth of others).

2. I am less than others.

While thinking that we are better than others may be a more visible form of pride, thinking we are less than others is still a form of pride — it is still “me” focused.

This form of pride comes from being under appreciated.

**Have you ever struggled with being under appreciated?  
What did that do to your attitude or self-esteem?**

Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it is thinking of yourself less (or thinking of others more).

Philippians 2:3-8 (NKJV)

*Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each **esteem others better than himself**. Let each of you look not only for his own interests, but also for the interest of **others**. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.*

**Do you tend to ask “Am I getting what I deserve?” Or do you ask, “Am I giving to serve?”  
What are some ways that you can serve others in your daily life?**

We cannot pray pride out of our lives, nor can we pray humility into our lives — we have to serve.

**Read James 4:6.**

**Why is it important for us to learn to walk in humility?  
How does God’s grace help us to walk in humility?**

Just like an engine has many moving parts that work together to perform the same function, the church has many moving parts that (should) work together to perform the same function.

Just like an engine needs oil to remove the friction between the moving parts, the church needs the Holy Spirit to remove the friction between the many moving parts.

**Read Isaiah 44:3.**

**Read Ephesians 5:18.**

Pastor Bobby gave an example of Death Valley in California — when the most desolate place in America received a rain in the winter of 2004, plants began to grow.

**Do you have any relationships that feel like they have become dry and desolate?  
How can the Holy Spirit bring life back into those relationships?**

BONUS STUDY:

**Read Ephesians 5:19-6:9.**

**How many different relationships are listed in these verses?**

**Why does Paul warn us to be filled with the Holy Spirit (verse 18) before listing these relationships?**