

Fight Arrogance by Remembering the Gospel

Romans 11:16–24

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Big Idea: Remembering the gospel will produce humility not arrogance.

Two commands:

(1) "do not be arrogant toward the branches." (v. 18a)

(2) "So do not become proud, but fear." (v. 20c)

Romans 12:3 For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

Romans 12:16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight.

> Humility is honestly assessing ourselves in light of God's holiness and our sinfulness.

HOW DO YOU FIGHT ARROGANCE?

I. Remember what you were (11:17ab).

> You were a wild olive shoot

- Separated from Christ

Ephesians 2:12–13 remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

- Fruit led to death.

Romans 7:4-5 Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God. 5 For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death.

II. Remember who you are (11:17b-20).

> You are grafted in by grace (vv. 17b-18)

- Grafted (v. 17b)

Rom. 11:24 For if you were cut from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and grafted, contrary to nature, into a cultivated olive tree,

- God's grace excludes all boasting.

Romans 11:6 But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace.

- Nourished (vv. 17bc)

- Supported (v.18)
Romans 9:4–5 They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. 5 To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen

> You are grafted in through faith (vv. 19-20).

- Faith excludes all boasting.
Romans 3:27 Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith.
- You are justified by faith alone.
Galatians 3:6–9 just as Abraham “believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”? 7 Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. 8 And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “In you shall all the nations be blessed.” 9 So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

III. Remember who God is (11:20b-24).

> He is to be feared (vv. 20b-21)

- The antidote to pride is fear, and the object of fear is God himself, particularly his kindness and severity.
 - God’s severity is seen in dealing with faithless Israel – He cut them off!
 - God’s kindness is seen in the inclusion of Gentiles – He grafted them in!
Romans 2:4 Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God’s kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?
- A failure to continue in the faith is a failure to fear God.
Philippians 2:12–13 12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.
- Warnings are one of the means God uses to keep believers running in the race, so that they keep trusting in Christ (vv. 20b, 21, 22b; Rom. 8:13; Col. 1:21-23; Heb. 3:6, 12-14, 1 Jn. 2:19).
- Perseverance is the hallmark of God’s authentic children.
 Failure to persevere does not mean that one who was truly saved becomes truly lost. Rather, perseverance is itself the proof that one was truly saved. If one does not persevere, one has always been lost and never saved. – **Sam Storms**

> He is mighty to save (vv. 23-24)

Romans 4:17 as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.