

Bible Study Guide: Do Not Become Conceited

Scripture: Galatians 5:26

"Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another." (ESV)

Theme

Humility protects unity in the church.

Study Objective

To understand that pride, jealousy, and rivalry weaken the fellowship of believers, while humility, love, and mutual respect strengthen the unity of the church and reflect the character of Christ.

Background

In Galatians 5, Paul contrasts the works of the flesh with the fruit of the Spirit. After encouraging believers to walk by the Spirit, he concludes the chapter with a warning against attitudes that destroy Christian fellowship. Conceit, provoking others, and envy are signs of the flesh that create division and conflict. Instead, believers are called to live with

humility, seeking the good of others and preserving the unity that Christ has established.

Key Truth

Walking by the Holy Spirit produces humility, which protects unity and strengthens relationships within the body of Christ.

Cross References

Philippians 2:3–4

"Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves."

Truth: Humility places the needs of others before our own.

Ephesians 4:1–3

Believers are urged to walk in humility, gentleness, patience, and love while maintaining the unity of the Spirit.

Romans 12:10

"Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor."

Truth: Christians are called to honor and encourage one another.

James 3:16–18

Jealousy and selfish ambition lead to disorder, but godly wisdom produces peace and righteousness.

1 Peter 5:5

"Clothe yourselves... with humility toward one another."

Truth: God blesses those who walk in humility.

Observation Questions

1. What attitudes does Paul warn believers against?
 2. How can conceit lead to provoking and envying others?
 3. What do these attitudes reveal about the condition of the heart?
 4. How does this verse relate to walking by the Spirit?
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Interpretation

Paul warns that pride leads people to compare themselves with others, resulting in competition, conflict, and jealousy. Conceit causes believers to seek recognition for themselves rather than glorifying God. When Christians provoke or envy one another, the unity of the church suffers. In contrast, the Holy Spirit produces humility, enabling believers to rejoice in one another's blessings, serve selflessly, and maintain loving relationships. A humble heart values others and seeks peace rather than personal praise.

Application

Ask yourself:

- Do I compare myself with others?
- Is there pride or jealousy that I need to confess to God?
- How can I encourage rather than compete with fellow believers?
- Am I contributing to unity within my church?

Practical applications:

- Celebrate the gifts and successes of others instead of comparing yourself.
 - Choose words that encourage rather than criticize.
 - Serve others without seeking recognition.
 - Pray for a humble heart that reflects Christ's character.
 - Seek reconciliation quickly when conflicts arise.
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Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean to be conceited?
 2. How do pride and envy damage relationships in the church?
 3. Why is humility essential for Christian unity?
 4. How can believers encourage one another instead of competing?
 5. What practical steps can your church take to promote humility and unity?
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Key Lessons

- Pride, envy, and rivalry are works of the flesh that harm Christian fellowship.
- Humility is essential for maintaining unity in the church.

- The Holy Spirit enables believers to love, honor, and serve one another.
 - Christians are called to celebrate the success of others rather than compete with them.
 - A humble church reflects the love and character of Jesus Christ.
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Memory Verse

Galatians 5:26

"Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another."

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for calling me to live in humility and love. Forgive me for the times I have allowed pride, jealousy, or selfish ambition to influence my heart. Help me to value others, encourage my brothers and sisters in Christ, and work for unity within Your church. Fill me with Your Holy Spirit so that my attitudes and actions reflect the humility of Jesus. In His name, Amen.

Takeaway

Humility is the foundation of healthy Christian relationships. As we walk by the Holy Spirit, we reject pride, envy, and rivalry, choosing instead to love, encourage, and serve one another. In doing so, we protect the unity of the church and reflect the character of Christ to the world.