

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Message Series: The Upside Down
Message Title: The Invisible Giant
Speaker: Lance Burch
Date: February 12, 2017

UP NEXT

- **Baptism Sunday** - Our next Baptism Sunday is scheduled for February 19. Sign up at reality.church/events
- "Still The One" - We are beginning a new Marriage sermon series on February 19 called "Still the One". Accompanying this series will be the *Married With Benefits* Marriage Conference on March 4th. Register online at www.marriedwithbenefits.org

MAIN IDEA

Here

INTRODUCTION

- Pride is that trait that differs most from others in the Christian life. Hardly anyone will even admit they struggle with Pride. However on the other hand, when we see Pride in other people's lives it bothers us more than just about anything else.
- C.S. Lewis said that if you want to know how much pride you have, ask yourself how much it bothers you when you are wronged, misjudged, slighted, etc. In fact, the more pride we have, the more we resent it in other people.
- Throughout this series we've learned that Greed is the sin no one wants to admit, Lust is the sin that everyone thinks they can control, and now Pride is the sin that is easy to spot... in others!

DISCUSSION

- What do you think sets Pride apart from all other sins? {Answer: Competitiveness}
 - In fact, every person's pride is in competition with everyone else's pride. The real reason we resent other people getting attention is that we want the attention.
 - Further, Pride doesn't just want something, it wants more of it. It leads to greed and selfishness because it is never satisfied. It drives us to seek things not out of need or even want, but solely to appear superior.
- Is Pride always bad? (good pride vs bad pride)
 - What separates the two?
- True or False? Pride always creates hostility.
 - Actually... the answer is TRUE.
 - While other vices can sometimes bring people together; Pride never does.
 - It not only creates hostility with people, but also with God.
 - See **2 Chronicles 7:14; Psalm 18:27, 138:6, 147:6; & Proverbs 3:34**
- In what ways is Pride like a spiritual cancer?

- It eats up the very possibility of love, or contentment, or even common sense. It can't be contained to one area of your life. It affects everything.
- Is it always prideful to be praised by other people?
 - No, listen to how C.S. Lewis explains this in his book *Mere Christianity*.
 - *"The child who is patted on the back for doing a lesson well, the woman whose beauty is praised by her lover, the saved soul to whom Christ says 'Well done,' are pleased and ought to be. For here the pleasure lies not in what you are but in the fact that you have pleased someone you wanted (and rightly wanted) to please. The trouble begins when you pass from thinking, 'I have pleased him; all is well,' to thinking, 'What a fine person I must be to have done it.'"*
- Have someone read [\(Luke 18:9-14\)](#)
 - Personally I see myself as the Pharisee somedays and the Tax Collector other days.
 - Why do you suppose somedays we see our need for God more than others?
 - Reread Verse 14. Doesn't this sound like an Upside Down World?
- How are we saved? Is it by our good efforts and the spiritual disciplines we practice?
 - Isaiah 64:6 says, **"We are all infected and impure with sin. When we display our righteous deeds, they are nothing but filthy rags. Like autumn leaves, we wither and fall, and our sins sweep us away like the wind."**
 - These deeds that we display as righteousness can easily (if not always) become pride.
 - The term "filthy rags" is quite strong. The word filthy is a translation of the Hebrew word *iddah*, which literally means "the bodily fluids from a woman's menstrual cycle." The word 'rags' is a translation meaning "a rag or garment."
 - Therefore, these "righteous deeds" that we go around bragging about doing, are considered by God as repugnant as a soiled feminine hygiene product. Sorry if that is offensive, but I'd rather you hear it from me.
 - Spiritually speaking, what do we have to be prideful about?
- So if our good deeds are truly that inadequate, why be good at all?
 - Have someone read [\(Galatians 6:9\)](#)
 - Why is it important to keep doing good?
 - Think about all the "good" things you do. Are they building up the Kingdom of God or are they building up your kingdom?

"If anyone would like to acquire humility, I can, I think, tell him the first step. The first step is to realize that one is proud....If you think you are not conceited, it means you are very conceited indeed."

C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

APPLY IT

- Forcing humility to the back of your life, only saves you a seat.
 - Eventually, Time will humble you, Health issues will humble you, Marriage struggles will humble you.
 - Why not be proactive and choose humility in the beginning?