

Small Group Guide: Pride

Key Scripture References

- Isaiah 14:12-15 (Lucifer's fall)
 - Philippians 2:3-11 (The mind of Christ)
 - Luke 18:9-14 (The Pharisee and tax collector)
 - Proverbs 13:10 (Where there is strife, there is pride)
 - 1 Peter 5:5-6 (God opposes the proud)
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Discussion Questions

1. The sermon identified five "I will" statements from Satan in Isaiah 14. Which of these resonates most with struggles you see in our culture today?

- Position ("I will ascend")
- Authority ("I will exalt my throne")
- Rule ("I will sit on the mount")
- Glory ("I will ascend above the clouds")
- Identity ("I will be like the Most High")

2. Pastor Clay said, "Worship is more about your daily submission and obedience than singing songs on Sunday morning." How does this challenge your understanding of worship?

3. Review the "Pride Diagnosis" questions from the sermon:

- Do you think of yourself as more spiritual than others?
- Are you quick to be critical, judgmental, and fault-finding?
- Are you proud of your schedule, discipline, and accomplishments?
- Do you do things primarily for approval and praise?
- Do you think your way is the right way or best way?
- Do you have difficulty admitting when you're wrong?
- Do you become defensive when criticized?

Which of these questions made you most uncomfortable? Why?

4. The sermon mentioned that pride is "like an onion—you peel away one layer only to discover that achievement fuels more pride underneath." Have you experienced this in your spiritual journey?

5. How does pride show up most commonly in your closest relationships (marriage, family, friendships)?
 6. Pastor Clay shared his struggle with defensiveness in marriage. What practical steps can we take to humble ourselves when conflict arises instead of building a case for why we're right?
 7. Proverbs 13:10 says, "Where there is strife, there is pride." Think of a current conflict in your life. How might pride be contributing to it?
 8. What's the difference between pride and vainglory according to the sermon?
 - Pride: desire for genuine status and superiority
 - Vainglory: desire for recognition and applause, regardless of whether it's deserved
 9. The sermon mentioned doing spiritual things (prayer, fasting, giving) to be seen by others. How can we guard against this in an age of social media where we're constantly sharing our lives?
 10. Discuss this statement: "We find God more useful than beautiful." What does this mean, and how does it manifest in prayer life?
 11. Philippians 2 shows Jesus humbling Himself—from heaven to earth, from king to servant, from life to death on a cross. How does meditating on Christ's humility help combat our own pride?
 12. The sermon said, "The way up is the way down in the kingdom of God." How does this contradict worldly wisdom? Share examples from Scripture or your own life.
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Key Takeaways

1. Pride is the root of all other sins and manifests in wanting God's place in our lives—wanting to be our own authority.
2. The question isn't "Are you prideful?" but "Where is pride hiding in your life?" It affects everyone.
3. God doesn't just dislike pride—He actively opposes it. But He gives grace to the humble.
4. Pride keeps us from:
 - Saying sorry when we're wrong
 - Admitting our struggles
 - Serving others genuinely

- Receiving correction
5. The cure for pride is developing the mind of Christ—choosing humility, service, and surrender daily.
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Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge: Choose ONE to practice

1. Daily Surrender Prayer Each morning this week, pray: "God, I acknowledge my complete dependence on You. I surrender [specific area] to Your authority. Not my will, but Yours be done."

2. Practice Confession

- Confess a specific sin or struggle to God daily
- Share one struggle with a trusted friend or accountability partner this week
- Ask them to pray for you

3. Serve Secretly Do something this week to serve someone without anyone knowing (except God). Don't post it, don't tell anyone, don't seek recognition.

4. Receive Correction

- Ask a trusted friend or spouse: "Is there an area where you see pride in my life?"
- Commit to listening without defending yourself
- Thank them and pray about what they share

5. Kill Comparison When you notice yourself comparing to others this week (on social media, at work, at church), immediately:

- Stop and pray for that person
- Ask God to help you celebrate their success
- Thank God for how He's uniquely made you

6. Practice "The Way Down" Identify one area where you're trying to promote or exalt yourself. Intentionally choose humility instead:

- Let someone else get the credit
- Take a lower position
- Serve without being asked

Reflection Questions for Personal Journaling

1. What specific form of pride did the Holy Spirit reveal in my heart during this sermon?
2. How has pride damaged my relationships with God and others?
3. What would it look like for me to "have the mind of Christ" in my daily life?
4. What am I trying to control that God is asking me to surrender?

Closing Prayer Points

- Pray for God to search each person's heart and reveal hidden pride
- Ask for the humility of Christ to be formed in the group
- Pray for specific relationships where pride has caused strife
- Ask God for grace to practice humility this week
- Pray for breakthrough in areas where pride has kept people from God's best

Additional Scripture

Warnings About Pride

Proverbs 16:18
Proverbs 11:2
Proverbs 29:23
Psalm 10:4
Obadiah 1:3
James 4:6
1 Peter 5:5

Pride as the Root of Sin

Genesis 3:5–6
Isaiah 14:12–15
Ezekiel 28:17
1 John 2:16
Luke 14:11
Philippians 2:3–8
Micah 6:8

Signs and Fruits of Pride

Proverbs 13:10
Proverbs 21:4
Romans 12:3
Galatians 6:3

Examples of Pride in People

Daniel 4:28–37
2 Chronicles 26:16
Luke 18:9–14
Acts 12:21–23

Pride vs Humility (Kingdom Teaching)

Matthew 23:12

God's Remedy for Pride

2 Chronicles 7:14
James 4:10
Colossians 3:12
1 Corinthians 1:28–31

