

# The Potter's Christian Life Center

SERMON NOTES  
with Pastor Greg Formey



## **What Pride Does To The Soul**

**2 Corinthians 12:7-10**

Sunday, July 7, 2019

A young lawyer has just opened his new practice. On his very first day, he sits at his desk waiting and hoping for a client to walk in. It doesn't take very long. He can see out into the reception area as the very first person to enter his office comes in through the door. The lawyer decides that he should look busy so he grabs the phone and starts talking: "Un, hunh. Un, hunh. Look, about this merger deal. I think I'd better come down there and handle it myself. Yes. No. I don't think three million is gonna cut it. We better have Rogers from NY meet us there. OK. Call you back later." He hangs up the phone, looks up at the prospective client and says, "Good morning! How may I help you?" The visitor says, "Well, I thought I was here to help you. I'm from the telephone company and I'm here to hook up your phone."

Someone said, "You can't convince people that you're wonderful and that Jesus is wonderful at the same time." This is the great battle against pride. Having a balanced view of yourself in the sight of God.

Pride does several things: It blurs our vision, it causes delusions in our minds, and it causes us to stumble.

### **IT BLURS OUR VISION**

We can't see what God wants us to see.

**John 9:39-41**

**<sup>39</sup>Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind."**

As impressive as Jesus was, the Pharisees refused to entertain the idea that He could be who He claimed. For them, He could not possibly qualify to be the Messiah, because He did not come from their group. Besides this, He accused them, in a backhanded way, of being blind.

**<sup>40</sup>Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, "Are we also blind?"**

**<sup>41</sup>Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, 'We see,' your guilt remains.**

When you assume that you know the truth, pride keeps you from opening up to another way of looking at things. This is the essence of true blindness.

**Isaiah 5:21 - "Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight."**

## **IT CAUSES DELUSION IN OUR MINDS**

We become confused about what to think and what to do. We are wrongly convinced in the no matter the evidence against our beliefs.

A preacher read his letter of resignation one Sunday morning. He explained that he was leaving to accept a call to another congregation several states away. He stood at the door after the service, like a lot of preachers do, when one of the elderly saints took his hand. There were tears swimming in her eyes. She said, "Oh, preacher, I'm so sorry you've decided to leave. Things will never be the same again." The preacher was very flattered but he responded with what he thought was a big helping of humility and grace. He said, "Bless you, dear lady. But I'm sure that God will send you a new preacher even better than I am." She choked back a sob and said, "That's what they all say. But they just keep getting worse and worse!"

### **2 Corinthians 12:7-10**

**<sup>7</sup>So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited.**

The Lord almost literally "stuck a pin in it," by giving Paul a thorn in the flesh, which he says was a messenger of Satan. This was designed to balance him out after having an abundance of understanding poured into him.

**<sup>8</sup>Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. <sup>9</sup>But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."**

This final revelation kept him encouraged and inspired.

**Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. <sup>10</sup>For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.**

When we finally realize that we do not have it all together, God can use us.

## **IT CAUSES US TO STUMBLE**

### **Proverbs 16:18**

**Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.**

Someone said "Pride is the dandelion of the soul. Its root goes deep; only a little left behind sprouts again. Its seeds lodge in the tiniest cracks. And it flourishes in good soil. The danger of pride is that it feeds on goodness."

The big truth is that you are important only when God works through you.

**Jeremiah 9:23-24 – "This is what the LORD says: 'Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom or the strong man boast of his strength or the rich man boast of his riches, but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight,' declares the LORD."**