

The Potter's Christian Life Center

SERMON NOTES
with Pastor Greg Formey



Kill Pride Before It Kills You - Part 5

Galatians 6:3

Sunday, August 11, 2019

A young woman asked for an appointment with her pastor to talk with him about a besetting sin about which she was worried. When she saw him, she said, "Pastor, I have become aware of a sin in my life which I cannot control. Every time I am at church I begin to look around at the other women, and I realize that I am the prettiest one in the whole congregation. None of the others can compare with my beauty. What can I do about this sin?" The pastor replied, "Mary, that's not a sin, why that's just a mistake!"

"For if anyone considers himself to be something when he is nothing, he deceives himself."

The journey toward freedom from pride requires **fleeing false humility**, and **avoiding pride-promoting situations**.

FLEEING FALSE HUMILITY

"You can have no greater sign of confirmed pride than when you think you are humble enough." – William Law

False humility allows us to live in pride without acknowledging that there is a problem. The clever danger is that you can be living in sin without recognizing it.

How, then can you know that false humility is present?
Here is a list of possible indicators:

- Feeling the need to announce your achievements to others
- Being unwilling to consider or accept godly correction
- Correcting people in order to assert your dominance rather than to edify them
- Comparing yourself favorably to others
- Recognizing sin in your life without turning from it

It is also the epitome of hypocrisy to refuse to admit imperfection in your life.

Galatians 6:3

"For if anyone considers himself to be something when he is nothing, he deceives himself."

If you recognize any of these signs, repent and allow the Lord to reset your mindset in this area. As you do, forgiveness and freedom are yours.

AVOID SITUATIONS THAT LEAD TO PRIDE

If taking on a certain responsibility or position will cause you to have a prideful attitude, it is best to avoid that situation.

An example of this danger is in **1 Timothy 3:6**. Paul says that the office of an overseer cannot be held by a new convert **“or he might become conceited and incur the same condemnation as the devil.”**

Avoiding conceit is a valid reason for not accepting a position, an honor, or a promotion.

Everyone deals with pride in some way. It is, therefore, not reasonable to say that there is no pride in your heart at all, and that you can surely handle positions of honor or respect. Because of the subtlety of this sin, you should listen carefully to the observations of sincere family, friends, and acquaintances.

F. B. Meyer once said, *"I used to think that God's gifts were on shelves one above the other, and that the taller we grow in Christian character the more easily we should reach them. I find now that God's gifts are on shelves one beneath the other, and that **it is not a question of growing taller, but of stooping lower, and that we have to go down, always down to get His best gifts.**"*

Flee false humility, and avoid situations that promote pride.