

The Potter's Christian Life Center

SERMON NOTES
with Pastor Greg Formey



Kill Pride Before It Kills You

1 Peter 5:5b,6
Sunday, July 14, 2019

An epic battle is being waged against the lives of Christians. It is the contest in the soul between the spirit and the flesh.

The great truth we all must learn is that God alone is worthy to receive honor, glory, and praise. Pride wants to have its own way and says to God, "I am more important than you." It does all it can to hijack His rightful place and role in our lives. This is no less than ignorance and insanity. No one ever opposed God and ultimately came out a winner.

1 Peter 5:5b,6

"^{5b}All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble." ⁶Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time." NIV

You must evaluate your life and ask yourself, "Which do I want from God, His opposition or His grace?" If grace is what you want, it is required that you lay aside your pride.

There are a number of things you must do to kill pride within you. In this message we will identify three of them:

1. Identify lies you believe, 2. Understand who God really is, and 3. Understand who you really are.

IDENTIFY LIES YOU ARE BELIEVING

If you really knew and believed the truth, pride would have no room in you to take hold. Your pride comes from things you believe that are not true.

Our adversary is a liar, and the father of lies, so his first strategy is to get you to be convinced of something that is not true. Your challenge, with God's help, is to identify falsehoods so that you can replace them with the truth.

Here are some lies that can lead to pride:

- “My sin is not that serious.”
- “My comfort is more important than yours.”
- “I deserve grace more than you do.”
- “I am humble enough just as I am.”

UNDERSTAND WHO GOD REALLY IS

God is holy. His wisdom is infinite. His glory will never end. His goodness is unsearchable. He works all things out based on His goals and desires. There is no being in all of creation that compares to Him - including human beings. The big problem is that we are the only beings from earth who are prideful enough to disobey Him.

In **Isaiah 42:8** God declares, **“I am the Lord. That is my name, and I will not give my glory to another or my praise to idols.”**

It is impossible to have a view of God that is too great. He is more majestic than our minds will ever be able to comprehend. He commands all worship, praise, adoration, honor, and glory, and nothing will stop Him from receiving it.

Pride often comes from a view of God that is too low. We must fight to give Him the honor He deserves if we want to grow in humility. As John the Baptist declared, **“He must become greater; I must become less.”** (John 3:30 NIV)

UNDERSTAND WHO YOU REALLY ARE

What you deserve is infinitely worse than what you've been given. It is only because God loves that we generously gives us mercy and grace.

Listen to what **Ephesians 2:1-3** says about what you were before Jesus came into your life: **“¹As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ²in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.”** NIV

We were helpless and hopeless, living according to the world, following Satan, and living to satisfy our own desires. But, our hearts were changed. God made us alive so that He could display the riches of His grace in us. **This leaves no room for pride!**

Ephesians 2 further declares in verse **10**, that even our good works were prepared ahead of time. **“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”** NIV

You never surprise God when you do good. He planned it. He gets the glory!
What do you have to be prideful about?

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