

Pride – A Good Thing? Exposing the Enemy in Your Soul

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(various scriptures)
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So as everybody knows, June is Pride month, and it got me thinking I should do a sermon on pride. I mean, is it really a good thing? Is it something to celebrate? When I was in college, some friends and I were driving through the night. In order to stay up and keep ourselves awake, one of the friends said, hey, we should talk about our best attributes, and that was kind of awkward, so it created a silence in the car that was eventually broken by my buddy who said, well, I'm the most humble person I know. Needless to say, we laughed at him for the rest of the drive, that kept us awake. But did you know, pride is the one sin we fight to protect? Think about it. When our "pride" is hurt, we don't typically rejoice, right? Oh, thank the Lord. No. We typically justify it or excuse it or say or do something to rehab our pride just a little bit.

If you cook a meal that turns out horribly, it's embarrassing, it's humbling, but we will rehabilitate our pride with I didn't have the right ingredients, or I didn't have enough time or say or do something to get sympathy so that people say, no, no, no, it's okay. Or if you aren't playing well on the golf course, it can be humbling. But what do we do? Oh, you should have seen me last week, darn clubs. Oh, my back is just kind of tight today. Or at least I'm not the only one playing horribly, huh, Jim? We'll do something to protect our pride. We'll duck the things that humble us, and we'll do that. We'll even give new names to pride like self-esteem or self-sufficient or self-confidence. What's at the center of all of that? Oh, itself.

We'll protect our pride even to the point of anger, lying, hiding, being stubborn, being a know-it-all, arguing, gossip, resentment, even severing relationships, all to keep pride when the truth is, pride is the enemy of your soul. Pride is a traitor. Pride pretends to want what's best for you when the truth is it is plotting your ruin. We have walls and insulation. We hire bug pros to protect us from little critters that could harm us. Many have firearms accessible in their homes or even on their persons to protect from people who are plotting our harm. Like a snake, pride silently slithers past our defenses and actually convinces us to protect it rather than to kill it. I want to help you expose pride, the enemy that is in your soul. It's not an enemy outside of you, it's the enemy inside of you.

It's not your friend. It's your enemy pretending to be your friend to take you down. Pride is like your shadow. It goes everywhere you go and you rarely, if ever, notice it, but it's always there. It's the root, it's the source. It's the mother of all of our sins. It's what got Adam and Eve kicked out of the garden. It's what got Satan kicked out of heaven. It's the reason for the last fight with your spouse, your parents, your friend, your coworker, and it is the reason why there that still hasn't been reconciliation This week when I tried to define pride, I had of a bit of a hard time

doing so. When I looked at pride in the Oxford Dictionary, there wasn't a negative definition. There were five definitions and none of them were negative. The first definition was a feeling of deep pleasure or satisfaction derived from one's own achievements. The second was a consciousness of one's own dignity. The third was a confidence in self-respect as expressed by a socially marginalized group. The fourth was the best state or condition of something, and the fifth was a group of lions.

I had to look to a sub definition to get even close to the vice that most people think of when they hear the word pride. But even when I got to that, it hedged the definition with this, having an exceedingly high definition of oneself or one's importance. Just having a high definition of your opinion of yourself, that's not pride unless it's excessive, but what makes it excessive? I mean, in our current climate, is there anyone saying that there's an actual limit to how high an opinion of myself should be is too high? I mean, is I don't hear those people telling us. So, what is pride? Well, some synonyms are arrogant, haughty, conceited, egotistical. This week I surveyed the dictionaries in my library, and this is what I found. It's having a sense of superiority, being self-absorbed or self-centered. A love for one's own excellence, a distinguishing and elevating of oneself compared to others.

That frame of mind that would draws oneself from God and exalts oneself above his will, his ways or his word, the attributing of the honor due to God to oneself. Pride is seen in a resisting of God's will for the good of having one's own will instead. Psalm 10:4 actually says as much. It says, "In the pride of his face, the wicked does not seek the Lord. All his thoughts are there is no God." What's at the core of actual atheism and even practical atheism, which is living like God doesn't exist. What's at the core of all of that? It's pride. In addition to not seeking God, the Bible says pride leads to lies and slander, leads to violence, mockery and boasting. That's because pride defiles a person, deceives them into thinking that they're better than they really are, and pride will actually be used as evidence against people when they stand before God on their judgment day. Isaiah 5:5.

After all that, like cockroaches, pride hates the light of God's word. It hates being exposed. But here's the thing, we have to expose it. Not just for the glory of God, but really for our own good too. The bottom line when it comes to pride, there is nothing at all that is good about it. It cannot do us good. It cannot benefit us. Call it self-love, self-esteem. That's pride. It tells us it's healthy. It tells us it's good for us. It convinces us that, listen, I'm really good for you, when the Bible says pride sets you up for public shame. You're still in Proverbs chapter 6, right? Look at chapter 11, Proverbs 11:2, Proverbs 11:2 says, "When pride comes, then comes disgrace. Like Siamese twins, you get one with the other. With pride comes disgrace or shame."

This word speaks of public dishonor, social failure, a disgrace that tarnishes people's thoughts about others. Pride is that dress or that shirt that just doesn't really look good on you. Pride looks horrible on us. The word disgrace here is used for the feeling that soldiers have who make it through the war only to find that they lost. We all know this actually. I mean, have you ever noticed how prideful people repulse us? We're not thinking about, how can I spend more time

with that arrogant jerk? We're thinking just the opposite. What can I do to minimize my exposure to that guy? Well, we have a built-in revulsion to pride in others probably because we're created in God's image. We hate it. We don't like it because well, he doesn't. Those who are prideful are like a golf ball on a tee, set up, poised and ready to be smacked by the golf club of God's public shame for their pride.

Also, pride chains us to foolishness, chains us to foolishness, that links us to foolishness. Proverbs teaches that we are born foolish, and so we desperately, you and I, we desperately need wisdom. But listen to Proverbs 26:12. It says, "Do you see a man who is wise in his own eyes? See a prideful man? There is more hope for a fool than for him." Wise in your own eyes is self-confidence, thinking that I'm wise already. I don't really need God; I don't really need his truth. There's more hope for good for a foolish man than there is for a prideful man. In other words, his unchecked pride will make him hopeless. See, if fools are pictured as walking towards the cliff of their own destruction, the one who is wise in his own eyes, the prideful man, is walking towards the cliff of his own destruction, blindfolded, he's in trouble. He's in a lot of trouble because pride is hostile to the fear of the Lord. Flip quickly to Proverbs chapter 3, Proverbs chapter 3, and take a look at verse 7.

Proverbs 3:7 says, "Be not wise in your own eyes." So don't be prideful. "Instead, fear the Lord and turn away from evil." See, the idea here is that prideful people can't not be fools because the one thing you need to be wise is the fear of the Lord. But pride is thinking people should revolve around them, care most about their opinions and their desires. But that's the opposite of the fear of the Lord. The fear of the Lord is all of life revolving around the Lord, caring most about His opinions and His desires than anything else. God is no fan of pride, which is why pride makes punishment certain. Think about it, in our culture, what makes punishment certain? All kinds of activities of thoughts and words and activities that guarantee you will be punished by our culture.

Well, in the Bible, what is promised punishment is pride. Listen to Proverbs 16:18. "Pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before the fall." So the picture is pride is out in front, leading you and following is destruction. Proverbs 15:25 says, "The Lord tears down the house of the proud." The house is often used in the Bible as a metaphor for your life, the life that you are building with the choices and activities that you do. It says he tears down the life of the proud. Other texts in the Bible say that God will break pride, repay it, trample it, punish it, defile it, dishonor it, humiliate it, spoil it, doom it, put it to an end, ruin it and make an example out of it. God is opposed and punishes pride, and we know that, that's what he did to Satan in Isaiah chapter 14. If you're familiar with the account, that's what he did to King Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel chapter 4 and in Acts 12, it's what he does to a guy named King Herod.

It says this Acts 12:20. "Now Herod was angry with the people of Tyre and Sidon and then they came to him with one accord and having persuaded Blastus, the king's chamberlain, they asked for peace because their country depended on the king's country for food." They're trying to win back his favor. So on an appointed day, Herod put on his royal robes, took his seat upon the throne and delivered an oration to them, and the people were shouting "The voice of a God and

not a man." Well, what's going to be the response to that? "Immediately, an angel of the Lord struck him down because he did not give God the glory and he was eaten by worms and breathed his last." Notice he was eaten by worms before he died. You can ask me why that is at the door.

That's a historical account of an actual person who was struck down for pride. Pride is self-destructive. It's suicidal. It sets people up to have almighty God opposing them. Pride guarantees problems and if not checked, if not stopped will ruin people. If not in this life, certainly in the next and all of that's because God hates pride. Look down at Proverbs 16:5. Proverbs 16:5 says, "Everyone who is arrogant in heart is an abomination to the Lord. Be assured, be certain he will not go unpunished." Also, you remember Proverbs 6:16, we read it earlier, there are six things that the Lord hates, seven that are an abomination to him, and the first one was what? Do you remember? Haughty eyes. That's when people think that they're a cut above other people. God detests pride. It turns His stomach.

What do you hate? I hate mayonnaise. Turns my stomach. But that's a preference thing. More objective things, I hate abortion and child abuse. I hate false religion. I hate tyranny. But listen, we hate nothing to the degree that God hates pride. Why? Because pride robs God of the one thing, he deserves most that we deserve least, which is glory. Well, think about it. If shame, foolishness, punishment and God's hatred is the truth, is fact about pride, then the only right response any of us should have to it is point #1) ***Hate Your Pride. Hate your pride.*** If God hates it, the question is do we hate it or do we protect it? Do we make excuses for it? Do we demand that others recognize it and respect our pride? If pride will lead to our ruin because it changes to foolishness and is hostile to the fear of the Lord so that punishment is certain because God hates it, then the question is do we even really see our pride, let alone do we hate our pride?

Because if we don't even see it, we can't possibly hate it. We have to be able to say with God what it says in Proverbs 8:13, which is pride and arrogance I hate. Not just out there, but my pride and my arrogance. God hates it, and so I should too. If you don't, if this is like, I haven't even thought about this before, then listen, we need to pray that God will give us the holy hatred that we need for our pride and for all the rotten fruit that pride grows out of our lives. Well, let's see if we can see pride in our lives so that we can hate it. Listen, I say these things as a pride expert. I am a prideful man pursuing humility. So, this is not me on top of holy mountain looking at all you unholy peons saying, be more like me.

Not at all. Let's take a look at what God's word says or let's expose it. Pride is seen in a desire for people to see how great we are and be impressed with us, be impressed with our learning, our cooking, our singing, our clothing, our achievements, our neighborhood, our spirituality, our leadership. It's seen in always comparing ourselves to others. It's seen in having a hard time admitting that we're wrong or in sin or that we don't know something. Pride can be seen in resisting and refusing correction. Is it hard to correct you? If it is, that's pride. It's resenting the people who try to correct us rather than thanking God for them. It's seen in turning conversations around to us. It's taking credit for the good things in our lives when every good and perfect gift comes from the Lord, according to James 1:17.

Pride is in continuing to do that one sin in defiance of God's will for our lives. Pride is being critical. It's looking down on people, feeling superior to others whose lifestyle isn't ours, whose spirituality isn't ours, who hasn't been blessed like we have, whose sins aren't like ours, whose likes and dislikes aren't like ours. It can be seen in our craving the latest, coolest, nicest stuff. It can be seen in being offended when people don't recognize the rights that we deserve. It can be seen in gossip, being divisive and always in conflict with others. It can be seen as nothing is really good enough. There's always something that's wrong. It can be seen in a desire to be famous, well known or influential. It can be seen in a lack of service to others, not really caring about others' feelings, not thinking about others because we're too preoccupied with ourselves. It can be seen in making fun of others and calling it joking. It's the idea that I'm pretty humble, so I don't need this, but I know who does.

It's definitely seen in a refusal to submit to the authorities that God has placed in our lives, even refusing to submit to his authority over our lives and especially refusing to repent of our sin and put our trust in Christ. That is the one thing that keeps people from giving their lives to Christ, from believing in him, receiving all of the gifts of salvation. It is pride. I could go on, but here's the thing, when your pride is exposed, it hurts a little bit, right? It does for me. I've had to do that five times just now. But it's a really good thing. It is a great thing because you must hate your pride enough to hurt it and weaken it.

During heavy rains, it's common for rivers to swell and overflow their banks and sometimes when that happens, thousands have to be evacuated because people could die. Well, if this short survey on what the Bible says about pride, if it doesn't make you want to evacuate the swelling of your pride, then just know the Bible is clear, pride will ruin you. It can even kill you like it did with Herod. It hates you. It's your sin, and it wants nothing more than to ruin you. If pride is the enemy in your soul, then humility is your best friend. Unlike pride when it comes to humility, there is everything, everything good about humility. It only always ever does you good. It only benefits your life.

All that it is good for you. But pride says, no, it's not, it's weakness. It's useless. You won't get anything good if you're just humble and meek and all of that stuff. No, you've got to toot your own horn. People got to see how great you are. You're never going to get ahead. Well, let's see if that's true. Let's see if the Bible agrees with that idea about humility. Well, Bible says humility makes you eligible for honor, for public praise, for a good reputation. This is the thing that is said most in Proverbs about humility, that it is the Siamese twin of honor. You're in Proverbs 16 still, right? Take a look at Proverbs 15:33. Proverbs 15:33 says, "Humility comes before honor." If humility is leading your life, what is following you is honor. Proverbs 18:12 says the same thing, humility comes before honor. Proverbs 29:23 says, he who is lowly in spirit will obtain honor.

But listen, we don't really believe this, do we? Believe doing things that come from pride. That's the pathway to receiving honor. I have to toot my own horn. I have to prop myself up. I have to use others to get ahead. I have to get attention for my greatness. I mean, if I don't do it, nobody's

going to do it. Someone else is going to do it and get in line ahead of me. You don't have to do any of that, just the opposite, in fact. Jesus put it this way. Luke 14:11, everyone who exalts himself will be what? Humbled. But he who humbles himself will be exalted. Peter put it this way, 1 Peter 5:6, "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that at the proper time, at the right time, he may exalt you."

I want to say God is sovereign over all things. He's in control of everything except getting me ahead at my job, except getting me ahead or accept getting me these blessings that I want. Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God and at the proper time, at the right time, according to His will for your life, he may exalt you. See, pride looks horrible on you, but humility is that shirt, it's that dress that people always compliment. It's just stunning on you. It looks so great on you. That's humility. Humility sets you up for honor, and humility is essential for wisdom. Last half of Proverbs 11:2 says this, "With the humble is wisdom." Why? Because wisdom takes into account that God is watching everything I think, everything I say, everything I do. The humble reflect that reality. They don't live like there's no God. That's not the humble, the humble want God to dictate everything about them, their identity, their desires, their activity, God over all of it, God determining all of it.

Now, where does wisdom come from? What is necessary for wisdom? Well, if you're familiar with the Proverbs, the answer is the fear of the Lord. Well, humility is the attitude of those who fear the Lord. Proverbs 3:7 says, "Be not wise in your own eyes, but the opposite is fear the Lord and turn away from evil." Because the opposite of being wise in your own eyes is humility, but the counsel in the text is instead of pride, fear the Lord. Don't be prideful, fear the Lord. Why? Because humility is wanting every thought, every word, every deed to please the Lord. That is the humble move. Instead of our thoughts, our words, and our deeds being used to please ourselves or to please others to make us look good to those people. You didn't know the Bible was so cutting into our thoughts and activities, did you?

So because pleasing God is number one, instead of punishment, humility promises God's favor. I don't know about you, but I want more of God's favor in my life. You too? I want more blessing. I want more of His kindness, His favor on my life. I don't want Him to oppose or punish me, but to treat me with more and more grace and mercy. Well, that comes to the humble. Are you still in Proverbs chapter 3? Look at verse 34. "Towards the scorers, God is scornful, but to the humble, He gives..." what? "Favor". To the humble He gives favor. Both James and Peter quote this verse and say, "God gives grace to the humble", which all of which points to the fact that humility is promoted by God. All of this anti pride and pro humility stuff, all of it is meant to promote humility.

If that didn't do it, listen to Proverbs 22:4. It says, "The reward for humility and the fear of the Lord ..." What do you think it's going to be? What's the reward for all of that? What do you think? The reward for humility and the fear of the Lord "is riches and honor and life". Anyone want a good life? Anyone want a blessed life? If you do, the Bible says the pathway to that is humility. Listen to Isaiah 66:2. It says, God speaking, "This is the one to whom I will look." This

is the kind of person that gets God's attention. You ready? The man or woman quote, "who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word." All of these principles and promises are God saying, this is the pathway to blessing. This is the pathway to a good life. He's promoting humility because not only is this what he wants his people to be, but he says, I want you to be this way because I want to bless your life.

Again, it's Luke 14:11. "Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted." Think about it. If you're familiar with some Bible stories, Joseph went from slave in prison to second in command in Egypt, the world's superpower today, the vice president. David went from overlooked by his dad and shepherd. Remember Samuel shows up at David's father's house, Jesse, and says, hey, Lord told me one of your sons is going to be king, so let me see your sons. He brings eight of his sons in, and he is. Then Samuel looks at them and is like, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no. Do you have any other sons? Well, I got the loser outside watching the sheep, but there there's no king in that kid. Samuel goes outside, and that's the one who's the king. Why? Because God exalts ... He humbles the proud, but he exalts the humble.

Jeremiah and Ezekiel were outcasts in their day, but they wrote books that we still read to this day. Then think about Christ. Exalted in heaven, equal with God, worshiped by angels, humbles himself, becoming a human, taking on the form of a servant human being obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross, and what does God say he's going to do as a result of that? Exalt him. Give him the name that is above every name so that at the name of Jesus, every human being that has ever existed will bow before Him. Why? Because he was humble. He was humble and was obedient to death. He is the model of humility, he's our example, but He is also the savior of all prideful people who need to be forgiven and cleansed of their pride.

Now, here's the thing. I don't know if you've noticed it, but we have heard two pathways to humility. One was to humble yourself. We saw it in Jesus. Again, he who humbles himself will be exalted. But what was the other one? Did you notice it? Is that God will humble you. I don't know about you, I'll take door number one, right? With that in mind, point #2) ***Cultivate Humility. Cultivate humility, make this a priority in your life.*** Cultivate it, promote humility in yourself. Embrace it, don't resist it.

One of the ways to do that is just consider what we've seen so far. I mean, do you want public shame? Then be prideful. You want public praise? Foster humility. You want to be foolish? Stay prideful. You want to be wise? Nurture humility. If you want to set yourself up for God's judgment? Then be prideful. For God's blessing? Then embrace and cultivate humility in your life. Here is even more of what the Bible says that God does for the humble. Psalm 25:9 God, "leads the humble in what is right and teaches the humble his way." Do you want to know what God's will for your life? Your thinking, God what do you want me to do with my life? How do you want me to live my life? He says, it's going to start with you being humble.

Listen to this one, Psalm 147:6. "The Lord lifts up the humble." The context of Psalm 147 is sadness, broken heartedness, depression. He says, "I lift up those who are humble. I encourage them." What are God's people supposed to do with humility? Micah 6:8. "God has told you a man what is good and what the Lord requires of you, but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God." Why? Because when you understand who God is and you understand who you are, the only right response to him is humility. Zephaniah 3:2 says this, "Seek the Lord all you humble of the land." He says it to the humble because the prideful aren't going to seek the Lord because they're too busy seeking what? Seeking themselves. He says, "Seek the Lord all you humble of the land, who do his just commands, who submit to him. Seek righteousness, seek humility. Perhaps you may be hidden on the day of the anger of the Lord."

The biblical method for change, if you're like, "How do you change as a Christian?" This is how there's two aspects to it. One, you put off, so you stop doing bad behavior. It's like clothing. You take off pride and you replace it with good behavior. You replace it with humility. So, you put on humility. Listen to this paradigm in Philippians 2:3. It says, "Do nothing from selfish, ambition or conceit." So that's put off, "But" put on "In humility count others more significant than yourselves." Or to encourage this. Colossians 3:12 says, "As God's chosen ones, put on compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience." Or 1 Peter 3:8 which says, "All of you," so talking to all Christians, "All of you have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart and a humble mind." A mind that does not seek pride. Or after all the blessings that we've seen you think about why wouldn't we want to cultivate humility?

Oh, that's right, because we're prideful. That's why. Well, how would we do it? How would we cultivate being humility's best friend? Well, putting on humility would then be doing the opposite of what we saw pride a little bit earlier. It's not pointing people to how great we are. Our skills, our knowledge, our achievements so that they become impressed with us. It's not doing that. It's no more comparing yourself to other people, but being content with who God made you, being content with the life that he has given you up to this point. It's admitting you're wrong. It's admitting when you sin, it's owning it. It's admitting that you don't know things. It's receiving correction. It's being grateful for correction. It's being easy to correct.

It's being grateful for the ones who correct you because they love you and you recognize that. They love me and that's why they're doing this. It's being more critical of yourself than the things or the people around you. It's resisting the temptation to turn a conversation around to yourself, even when it be easy and obvious to do that, but instead just enjoying the fact that you are learning about another image bearer by letting them continue to talk about themselves. It's refusing to take credit for the good in your life and the good coming through your life but deflecting all that credit to the Lord who's really the one doing it anyway. It's trusting the Lord to advance you instead of jockeying and manipulating to get in the front of the line.

It's not being easily offended. It's giving up your rights for the good of others. It's seeking to be faithful instead of famous. It's seeking with your time to be a blessing to others. It's no longer making fun of people except maybe yourself. It's ending the, I hope she's listening, but asking,

God, what did you bring me here to hear? What did you bring me here to learn? What is it in my life that you wanted change, that's why you wanted me to hear this? Beyond all of the put off and put on, you can memorize verses on humility and verses against pride. Here's one author said, you can do things you're bad at. That's humbling. For me, that's golf. Very humbling experience every time, I play golf. Then I thought about this, you could do things you used to be good at but are now bad at. For me, that would be basketball. That would be so frustrating. I used to be good at this and now I'm not. That would be good for pride.

You could read the books on the back of the handout. I give some recommended reading on the back of the handout, and if you're like, "Where should I start?" I've starred the ones where you should start. Start with these books first. There's a document on the internet called 50 Fruits of Pride. You can find it out there. It's easy to find. 50 Fruits of Pride. Search that and download it and read it with your daily routine. You don't have to read the whole thing. Just read like a couple of them a day and you'll be like, Lord, I need to grow. I need to grow in my hatred for this pride that I'm seeing in this document and cultivate humility in my life.

How else do you cultivate humility? Reflect on your current sin and your continued need for a savior. Remember your BC days, the sin that Jesus saved you from, forgave you for. Reflect on those days. Here's another way, catalog every good thing in your life and realize that every single one of those things was a gift of God to you, James 1:17. Here's another way to grow in humility. Compare yourself to God's perfections. Allow him to continue to grow higher and more wonderful and more majestic in your mind. As you do that, you know what you do? You grow downward, and that's a good thing. I heard one pastor say that growth in the Christian life is like a teeter-totter. If your estimation of yourself goes up, your spirituality, your growth goes down. But your growth goes up as your estimation of your yourself goes down.

Or just ask God to expose your pride. Pray God, search my heart. Is there any wicked way? Is there any prideful way within me? so that you hate it and begin to love or grow in your love for humility. One pastor put it this way, he said, Pride is a thing which should be unnatural to us because you really have nothing to be proud of. The question is do you believe that? Do you believe that? Because when you do, you will make a real effort to cultivate humility. Now, as I close, I want to take you to Jeremiah chapter 13. Jeremiah 13. You can turn there if you want to, or I'm going to summarize it right now. But if you're not familiar, Jeremiah was a prophet and he had been told in chapter 13, take a piece of clothing and thoroughly destroy it. That was to be an illustration of the destruction that was coming to God's people, because if they would not listen to God, if they would not repent of their sin.

At this point, God has reached his limit. After centuries of sending prophets to his people to say, this is what God wants, after centuries of that, of ignoring, rejecting, and even killing those prophets, after all that God says, I'm done. Jeremiah 13:14 says that He will not pity, He will not spare, He will not have compassion, He will destroy them. Then there's Jeremiah who hears all of that and responds in verse 15, where he says to the nation, "Hear and give ear. Be not proud, for the Lord has spoken." Don't be proud and ignore God's word. Listen. Listen to him. don't let

pride destroy you", he says. Then he goes on, "Give glory to the Lord your God, before He brings darkness, before your feet stumble on the twilight of the mountains, and while you look for light, he turns it into gloom and makes it deep darkness." He said, repent before judgment comes.

Then he says, "But if you will not listen", he's talking to his nation. "If you will not listen, my soul will weep in secret for your pride." My soul will weep in secret for your pride. "My eyes will weep bitterly and run down with tears because the Lord's flock has been taken captive." Did you see how Jeremiah responded there to the pride of his nation and the soon coming judgment God was going to inflict on his nation for their pride? How did he respond? He wept. He wept. Now, it wasn't too hard to make connections in this message to Pride month, was it? Pretty easy to make connections to that? But listen, if hundreds in that community came here to protest, Jeremiah's response to his nation should be our response to them. To weep. To weep bitterly. To weep for them as we remember that if it wasn't for God's grace, what? That would be us.

We all know that their action is our reaction, right? You know what that means? That they want to push us to a reaction that will get them sympathy and get us demonized. You know that's the goal, right? So listen, if you're government official, yes, work to reinstall common sense in the Judeo-Christian worldview into our laws like it has been for centuries. Obviously, vote your conscience. Vote the Christian worldview, vote the Bible. But when it comes to interpersonal interaction, you and I must not be like Jonah who hated his enemies and wanted God to wipe them off the face of the earth. When you think about that community, the identity that they crave, the love and acceptance that they crave, the community that they crave, where is that truly found?

Here. It's found in Christ and among Christ's people. Let's show them our Jesus by loving our enemies, offering to pray for those who see us as their enemies and would love nothing more than to turn the whole world against us. Loving that community of people is the humble, the Christlike thing to do. Amen? It's kind of hard to say Amen to that, huh. It just shows that even during Pride month, we all still need to cultivate humility. Let's pray.

Father, as we look out at our world, we're a world awash and pride, swelling, overflowing with pride. What an incredible reality it would be if this was an oasis of humility. If you would take these truths and impact our homes, yes, and our jobs and our schools, yes, our neighborhoods, yes, but also this church. It would be so counterculture; it would be so different that it wouldn't make sense. People's hard drives would crash because it would be so different than everything else that they see in our world. But what they would be seeing is what it looks like for the humble king of kings to transform and change lives. So all of us, we all need this message. For some, maybe for many, it's being done with the pride that stays in rebellion against you, and it's finally turning from that rebellion and entrusting their life to Jesus. For the rest, it's hating our pride and its cultivating humility so that we would be the people that you want us to be, and we would be a picture to the world of a God who loves his enemies and loved his enemies by giving

up his son for his enemies. It's totally backwards. It's totally against our flesh, but it is so true. Please do these things in all of us, I pray, in Jesus name, Amen.