

Flint Hills Bible Church  
Soul Care Sunday School  
Pride and Humility

I. The Pride Pandemic

When you hear the word pride, what do you think of? What kinds of people, actions, and characteristics come into your mind?

Pride is truly a pandemic that has affected every single human being. It continues to affect and distort all that we do. Listen to this quote from *Humility* by Andrew Murray:

*Let us...admit that there is nothing so natural to man, nothing so insidious and hidden from our sight, nothing so difficult and dangerous, as pride. (pg 4)*

It is my prayer that the believers here at Flint Hills Bible Church will seek out and destroy pride in our hearts wherever we find it and that we pursue humility as the greatest goal and truest indicator of our love for the Lord Jesus Christ.

Before we do that, we have to know what exactly pride is:

**Pride: The mindset of self (a master's mindset rather than that of a servant): a focus on self and the service of self, a pursuit of self recognition and self exaltation and a desire to control and use all things for self.** (Stuart Scott - *From Pride to Humility* pg 6)

II. Exploring Pride

Now we will explore why pride is so devastating by answering some basic questions about it.

a. *Why is pride so terrible?*

**Isaiah 42:8**

**<sup>8</sup> I am the Lord; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols**

**Revelation 4:11**

**<sup>11</sup> Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.**

**Romans 11:33-36**

<sup>33</sup> Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

<sup>34</sup> “For who has known the mind of the lord, or who has been his counselor?

<sup>35</sup> “Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?”

<sup>36</sup> For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

1. After reading these passages, what is the big deal with a little pride?

b. *What is God's response to our pride?*

**Proverbs 16:5**

<sup>5</sup> Everyone who is arrogant in heart is an abomination to the Lord. Be assured he will not go unpunished.

**Proverbs 8:13**

<sup>13</sup> The fear of the Lord is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil, and perverted speech I hate.

**1 Peter 5:5**

<sup>5</sup> Likewise you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

2. If God's response to our pride is this strong, how should this inform our daily living?

c. *What is the origin of human pride?*

**Genesis 3:1-7**

3. What was the core of the temptation from the serpent?

4. Why was this repulsive to God?

Pride is truly a terrible sin. It is self idolatry, it is our vain attempt to be God. With such a blatant and obvious sin, it seems that we should be able to easily identify and put this sin to death right? Wrong! In the next section we will dive into the question - Why is pride so difficult to deal with?

### III. Identifying pride in the human heart

Read the following verses and identify the object of pride:

#### **Matthew 23:5-7**

**<sup>5</sup> They do all their deeds to be seen by others. For they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long, <sup>6</sup> and they love the place of honor at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues <sup>7</sup> and greetings in the marketplaces and being called rabbi by others.**

5. Pride of \_\_\_\_\_

#### **1 Timothy 6:17**

**<sup>17</sup> As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy.**

6. Pride of \_\_\_\_\_

#### **1 Corinthians 8:1**

**<sup>1</sup> Now concerning food offered to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” This “knowledge” puffs up, but love builds up.**

7. Pride of \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Luke 22:24**

**<sup>24</sup> A dispute also arose among them, as to which of them was to be regarded as the greatest.**

8. Pride of \_\_\_\_\_

#### **2 Corinthians 12:7**

**<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.**

9. Pride of \_\_\_\_\_

### **2 Chronicles 26:16**

**<sup>16</sup> But when he was strong, he grew proud, to his destruction. For he was unfaithful to the LORD his God and entered the temple of the LORD to burn incense on the altar of incense.**

10. Pride of \_\_\_\_\_
11. After reading these passages, what is one reason why is pride so difficult for us to identify and kill?

There are many more passages we could turn to for examples of traits, abilities, and blessings that we can take credit for in our proud hearts. But pride does not just manifest itself in our stuff and our abilities.

### **1 Corinthians 12:14-16**

**<sup>14</sup> For the body does not consist of one member but of many. <sup>15</sup> If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," That would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>16</sup> And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body.**

12. How are the "foot" and the "ear" exhibiting pride?

Pride does not only affect the "haves" but also the "have-nots". This is one more reason why pride is so sneaky. It does not require a person to have plenty of something, or to be above average at any particular thing. The self pity that plagues us is also pride! We don't have something that we believe we deserve to have and that makes us depressed, anxious, sad, angry etc. Even this, at its root, is pride. But that's not all...

Identify the ways pride rears its head in the following passages:

### **Philippians 1:15**

**<sup>15</sup> Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will. <sup>16</sup> The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. <sup>17</sup> The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment.**

13. How was pride on display here?

14. How can this be a warning to us?

**1 Corinthians 5:1-2**

**<sup>1</sup> It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife. <sup>2</sup> And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather to mourn? Let him who has done this be removed from among you.**

15. What was causing the arrogance in the Corinthian church?

16. How is this instructive for a church like ours?

**IV. Where the Rubber meets the Road**

As we think about our own lives, relationships, and local church, the dangers of pride are everywhere, all the time. Here are some questions for us to consider as we seek to identify and kill pride in our lives:

- a. Social Media: Are you humble on the various social media platforms? Examine your motives for posting what you post, and responding to what you respond to. What does it look like for you and I to be humble on a social media platform that is designed to promote self?
- b. Rugged individualism is often a pride that does not ask for help, and does not submit to authority. Are you accountable to anyone? Do you ask for help when you need it - whether it is spiritual, physical, financial, relational?
- c. Self-Esteem - do you promote the idea of "self-love" and self-respect? What is wrong with the idea of teaching children (and ourselves) this idea of self esteem?
- d. Moral Superiority: when discussing our culture, what is your heart motivation? Do you talk about the evils of our society because it elevates your morality? Do you feel proud that you don't do something that our culture does?
- e. Accomplishments - Do you feel the need to tell others about your successes? Do you boast about your family, job, possessions, wisdom, intellect, abilities, etc.? Do you try to maintain a certain appearance or standard of living?
- f. Conversations - are you a good listener? Do you remember things about people you meet? Do you seek ways to welcome people and show hospitality?

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V. Is there a good kind of pride?

17. Is there a good way to be proud? What would be an example of pride that doesn't seem wrong?

**Jeremiah 9:23-24**

**<sup>23</sup> Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, <sup>24</sup> but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD."**

18. What are we to boast in according to this passage?
19. How does the text help us keep from veering into sinful boasting in self?

**Romans 15:17-20**

**In Christ Jesus, then, I have reason to be proud of my work for God. <sup>18</sup> For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience-by word and deed, <sup>19</sup> by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God-so that from Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ; <sup>20</sup> and thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation,**

20. What is Paul proud of?
21. How does he qualify his pride? What are the conditions that allow him to have this godly pride?
22. How does this concept impact our work?

## **2 Corinthians 7:4-7**

**<sup>4</sup> I am acting with great boldness toward you; I have great pride in you; I am filled with comfort. In all our affliction, I am overflowing with joy. <sup>5</sup> For even when we came into Macedonia, our bodies had no rest, but we were afflicted at every turn--fighting without and fear within. <sup>6</sup> But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus, <sup>7</sup> and not only by his coming but also by the comfort with which he was comforted by you, as he told us of your longing, your mourning, your zeal for me, so that I rejoiced still more.**

23. How did the Corinthian church give Paul and Titus reason for godly pride?

24. How does Paul's godly pride impact the way we feel about those close to us?

Summary: Pride is indeed deadly! It is trying to be God. It is the elevation of self, and by implication, the rejection of God as king and ruler. We have seen how deceptive and subtle our pride is, and how deeply ingrained it is in our hearts! We are to be on a search and destroy mission to conquer pride. But as with other sinful patterns and habits, it is not enough to simply fight and put off pride. We must replace pride with its biblical antidote--humility. In the next part of our study, we will examine what humility is, its importance to us as Christians, and how we are to grow in the grace of Humility.

### **VI. Humility - The greatest virtue**

Andrew Murray states in his book *Humility*:

“Humility is the only soil in which the graces root; the lack of humility is the sufficient explanation of every defect and failure. Humility is not so much a grace or virtue along with others; it is the root of all, because it alone takes the right attitude before God, and allows Him as God to do all.”

25. What stands out to you about that quote?

26. If what Murray is saying in that quote is true, how should that affect your life and the life of our church?

27. Why do you suppose humility is neglected in Christianity? In our own lives?

The first step in our exploration of humility should be to clearly define it. Then we will look at why it is so important and how we can begin to grow in it.

**a. What is humility?**

Stuart Scott defines humility as **“The mindset of Christ (a servant’s mindset): a focus on God and others, a pursuit of the recognition and the exaltation of God and a desire to glorify and please God in all things and by all things He has given.”** (pg 19-20)

**VII. The Humility of Christ**

Murray has this to say of Christ’s humility:

*“What is the incarnation but His heavenly humility, His emptying himself and becoming man? What is His life on earth but humility; His taking the form of a servant? And what is His atonement but humility? “He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death.” And what is His ascension and His glory, but humility exalted to the throne and crowned with glory? “He humbled Himself, therefore God highly exalted Him.”*

Comments:

Let’s look at the way Jesus talks about his own ministry and mission

**John 5:19**

**19 So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise.**

**30 “I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me.**

**John 14:10**

**Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works.**

28. What do Jesus’ statements reveal about His attitude toward the Father?

29. Does this surprise you?



Jesus' entire life and ministry was in complete submission to God the Father. His own testimony and witness about himself was that the Father directed every step, every judgement, and every action. Christ's humility is also reflected in the way he taught His disciples and the crowds that were gathered to hear Him.

**Matthew 5:2-5**

**2 And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:**

**3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

**4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.**

**5 "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.**

30. As we think about these first three beatitudes, it is good to reflect on what they mean and to honestly evaluate whether or not these qualities are in your own life.

Poor in spirit:

Those who mourn:

The meek:

Those who are humble live with a continual awareness of God's place in our lives and hearts. We are to always think about how God is working in the circumstances of our lives, and be constantly aware of our desperate need for his work in and through us.

**Matthew 11:25-30**

**28 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."**

31. Jesus is teaching us about repentance and faith. What kind of people should we be in light of His teaching in these verses?

32. How should we be like children?

What is your spiritual state of rest? Are you weary and heavy laden? Are you working to please God on your own strength and merit? What is the antidote to this?

**Matthew 20:25-28**

**25** But Jesus called them to him and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. **26** It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, **27** and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, **28** even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

33. What is Jesus calling his disciples to in this text?

34. What are the pathways to greatness in the kingdom of God?

**John 10:15**

**15** just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.

**VIII. The Humility of the Christian**

Humility is

**a. Gospel Humility**

The Gospel is the message of salvation. It is the only hope that you and I have of being reconciled to God. How does humility affect our response to the gospel?

Romans 3:9-18

35. How does a proud heart respond to this text? How does a humble heart respond?

Romans 3:19-28

36. After reading this text, why do you think that the way of salvation is a narrow path and that there are few who find it? (Matt. 7:13-14)

\*See also Romans 5:6-8, Ephesians 2:1-10, Titus 3:3-7

**b. Conformity to Christ**

**Philippians 2:5-11**

**5** Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, **3** being born in the likeness of men. **8** And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. **9** Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, **10** so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, **11** and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

37. Describe the mindset we are to have according to Paul's words here:

38. What is the motivation given for pursuing this mindset?

39. What hope do we have of attaining the mindset of Christ?

**Colossians 3:12-15**

**12** Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, **13** bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. **14** And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. **15** And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

40. How does humility influence our interactions with brothers and sisters in Christ?