

our wardrobe too.

12 Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. 13 Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. 14 Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. - Colossians 3:12-14 NLT

In Mark 12 we see pride listed among the vile things that defile us, but in Colossians 3, humility is listed with mercy, kindness, gentleness, and patience. How might pride stand in the way of forgiveness? How is humility a demonstration of love?

Now that we have seen that God does not desire pride in us, how do we go about cultivating humility?

23 May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it. - 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 NIV

Based on the verse above, who is able to cleanse us of pride?

When we place ourselves in submission to God's will we are humbling ourselves, denying our sinful desire, and allowing the Spirit to form us into the image of our humble King.

WRAP-UP

We have a choice, we can succumb to the cultural norm or pride and arrogance, or we can humble ourselves under God's hand and allow the Spirit to shape us into the image of Jesus.

MEMORY VERSE

*16 Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts. 17 And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.
- Colossians 3:16-17 NLT*

Challenge- Search out the poem Invictus by W.E. Henley and compare it to My Captain by Dorothea Day.

Pride

Hunger for Holiness Week 6

INTRODUCTION

I bet you would be surprised to see signs declaring "Central Coast Humility", but you would not be surprised by "Central Coast Pride". We have been raised in a culture where pride is promoted and encouraged. But is that a biblical view or a world view? Can you remember Jesus ever saying anything positive about pride? Do you know what He said about being humble? Let's take a look at pride from God's perspective and see if we need to rethink our attitude.

Ice Breaker

Who is the humblest person you know?

Key Passage

18 Pride goes before destruction, and haughtiness before a fall. 19 Better to live humbly with the poor than to share plunder with the proud. - Proverbs 16:18-19 NLT

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. The Humble King

This weekend we celebrated Palm Sunday. It is a remembrance of Jesus's entry into Jerusalem to the shouts of the welcoming crowd. But there was something different about this King's triumphal entry.

*14 Jesus found a young donkey and rode on it, fulfilling the prophecy that said: 15 "Don't be afraid, people of Jerusalem. Look, your King is coming, riding on a donkey's colt."
- John 12:14-15 NLT*

Rejoice, O people of Zion! Shout in triumph, O people of Jerusalem! Look, your king is coming to you. He is righteous and victorious, yet he is humble, riding on a donkey--riding on a donkey's colt.
- Zechariah 9:9 NLT

John refers to the prophecy of Zechariah 9:9 being fulfilled. How does Zechariah describe the attitude of the victorious king? Do you think this was also the attitude of the crowds that welcomed Jesus?

Our current culture works hard to elevate pride as a desirable characteristic. We are encouraged to show off our accomplishments, or display anything that demonstrates our superiority over others; wealth, beauty, intelligence, athleticism. We are told early and often in our lives that pride is a good thing, but have we considered that God may have a different view of pride?

21 For from within, out of a person's heart, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, 22 adultery, greed, wickedness, deceit, lustful desires, envy, slander, pride, and foolishness. 23 All these vile things come from within; they are what defile you."
- Mark 7:21-23 NLT

16 For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world.
- 1 John 2:16 NLT

6 But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." - James 4:6 NKJV

When Jesus explained what defiles us, He included pride alongside murder and adultery! And when John contrasts the values that come from the world with those coming from the Father, he included pride.

What damage have you seen done by pride in the news or on social media recently (e.g. Kansas City Superbowl shooting)? Has someone else's pride ever caused you pain or harm? What are the areas where you are tempted to be prideful?

2. What Fuels Pride?

There are a few things that drive us towards being prideful. Certainly, the Pharisee in Luke 18 was proud. What do you think he was seeking as he prayed the following prayer?

The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed this prayer: 'I thank you, God, that I am not a sinner like everyone else. For I don't cheat, I don't sin, and I don't commit adultery. I'm certainly not like that tax collector!' - Luke 18:11 NLT

3 If you think you are too important to help someone, you are only fooling yourself. You are not that important. 4 Pay careful attention to your own work, for then you will get the satisfaction of a job well done, and you won't need to compare yourself to anyone else. - Galatians 6:3-4 NLT

In his letter to the Corinthians (below), Paul said not to be proud of one leader over another and not to sit in judgement. What do you think they were trying to gain through their pride?

6 Dear brothers and sisters, I have used Apollos and myself to illustrate what I've been saying. If you pay attention to what I have quoted from the Scriptures, you won't be proud of one of your leaders at the expense of another. 7 For what gives you the right to make such a judgment? What do you have that God hasn't given you? And if everything you have is from God, why boast as though it were not a gift? - 1 Corinthians 4:6-7 NLT

We may use pride as a source of satisfaction, value or relevance that is rooted in putting ourselves first. But God should be the one who gives us value, satisfaction, and relevance. During His fasting in the wilderness, Jesus was tempted by Satan to take matters into His own hands rather than trusting God. (Luke 4:3-12) But Jesus put God first and depended on Him to meet all His needs, as should we.

3. Follow Jesus, & change your wardrobe

Christians are disciples, or followers, of Christ. We do what we see Jesus doing.

29 Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls.
- Matthew 11:29 NLT

When Jesus asks us to be yoked together with Him, how does He describe himself? If we share Jesus' yoke, then we will be walking in step with Him. What does Jesus tell us we will gain?

Not only does Jesus invite us to share His yoke, He wants us to change