

The Elements of Discipleship Part 3:

The Ultimate Desire of a Disciple

☀ What should the main goal of a disciple be?

“The essence of the Bible and of what God wants from a disciple is love. This love is the result of our faith and leads to our obedience.”

The Big Picture of Pride

The Bible defines two types of pride in Galatians 6:4

⁴Each one should test his own actions. Then he can take pride in himself, without comparing himself to somebody else, ⁵for each one should carry his own load. Galatians 6:4-5

2 Types of Pride:

Positive Pride is self-satisfaction resulting from your accomplishments, growth or actions.

Negative Pride is the result of comparing yourself to others in an attempt to build yourself up and or tear them down.

“Whenever we compare ourselves to someone else, it always results in negative pride.”

☀ Break into groups of 2-3, have groups find examples of both positive and negative pride in Biblical characters.

How was pride evidenced in their life?

What was the source of their pride?

What was the result of their pride?

☀ Agree or disagree: “All of us deal with pride and it must be rooted out.” Why or why not?

Jesus on Pride

¹⁰Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men--robbers, evildoers, adulterers--or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’ ¹³But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’ ¹⁴‘I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.’ Luke 18:10-14

☀ Who was the sinner and who was the righteous person in this story?

☀ When it comes to the issue of pride, who in this story do you relate to with friends, at work and with God?

🔗 Personal Reflection:

When does pride swell up in my heart?

What is the result of this pride?

The Many Faces of Pride

Pride evidences itself in many ways consider these three:

Self Preoccupation results from people taking pride in themselves based on their image.

"Boasting or bragging is looking for trouble." Proverbs 17:19

The Messiah Complex results from when we are tempted to act like God. We must be in control and be right in every situation.

"You will surely not die" the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God" Genesis 3:4-5

Stubbornness results as a pride won't allow a person to receive reproof or correction.

"One who is often reprovved yet remains stubborn will suddenly be broken beyond healing." Proverbs 29:1

☀ How is each of these three played out in day-to-day living?

☀ Which one can you relate to the most?

Putting Off Pride

Step One: Acknowledge Your Pride

⁸If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 1 John 1:8

☀ To whom should we acknowledge our pride?

☀ Before this study, did you think that pride is something that should be specifically confessed to God?

"For many of us, pride is such a default mode that sometimes we need someone to help us see it."

Step Two: Humble Yourself

Benefits of Humility:

"This is the one I esteem: he who is humble and contrite in spirit..." Isaiah 66:2

"He mocks proud mockers but gives grace to the humble." Proverbs 3:34

"The LORD sustains the humble but casts the wicked to the ground." Psalm 147:6

"He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way." Psalm 25:9

"Be completely humble and gentle..." Ephesians 4:2

"Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up." James 4:10

"If you don't humble yourself, God will do it for you."

☀ Talk through the "Here's my chance." exercise on the following page.

☀ How can we pray for you this week as you try to put pride in its right place?

Here's My Chance

Practical Insight on Humility from Ken

I want you to leave with a little phrase stuck in your mind. It's the phrase, "Here's my chance." I want you to think about various opportunities to live out a lifestyle of humility: to look for chances to put your pride in its proper place.

In Matthew 6, Jesus talks about how to cultivate humility. He talks to us, you and me, ordinary people who wrestle with pride especially when we are doing things for God. He says, 'here is what you do: Go ahead and fast. Fasting can be a helpful thing. But when you fast, don't let anybody know you are doing it. Go ahead and give money to the poor. Go ahead and give money to God. Give money, but as you do it, don't let people know that you are doing it. Go ahead and pray, but as you pray, don't let people know that you're praying. In other words, do good things, but keep them secret. Don't give in to the temptation to go around trying impress other people. As you practice this secrecy, which is a thing that you can practice, as you practice this, you will discover that you can live without impressing people and you really can live without having to put other people down to make yourself look good. And as you do these things, you will begin to be liberated from pride.

Now, I want to give you a couple of scenarios where you will be tempted to say something to draw attention to yourself. But Instead, what I want you to think about is the phrase: "Here's my chance." Here's are the three scenarios:

1. Sometime this week, you are going to be tempted to impress somebody with your accomplishments or with your spirituality or with your maturity or something very impressive that you have done or that you have said. It's almost a conditioned response. You are going to be tempted to say something to manage someone's impression of you. Instead, this week you are going to say, "Here is my chance to practice humility and be quiet."

2. Sometime this week you are going to be tempted to judge somebody. You are going to be tempted to pass an evaluation of someone who did the wrong thing or said the wrong thing, wore the wrong thing or used the wrong fork, and it's just going to be so overwhelmingly tempting to say something to make them look bad and to make yourself look cool.

But when that temptation comes up, you are going to remember what Jesus teaches about the various forms that pride takes, and your going to think to yourself: "Here is my chance to be quiet."

3. This week you are going to have an opportunity to submit to someone else. You are going to be in a hurry, you're late for work. And you're getting on the beltway and there is incredible traffic and someone is going to want to get in front of you. And you will be stunned that they have the audacity to get in your lane. And you will be tempted not to make eye contact with them, because you know that if you make eye contact you are morally obligated to let them in...it's kind of the law of the Beltway. But not today, you're going to make eye contact, your going to smile, and you're going to let in front of you with joy and resounding gladness in your heart. And you're going to say to yourself, "Here's my chance."

From "The Ultimate Desire of a Disciple" Sunday, April 7th, 2002.