



## The Week of September 12, 2021

### Pride

### Conversation Guide

#### Last Week: Revenge

- Have you had an opportunity to bring peace in a situation where you would have sought vengeance? Here are the steps from last week. How did you do? (Checkboxes)
  - If someone has hurt you, let them know it in a way that promotes reconciliation- Matthew
  - Seek an apology- Romans 12:18
  - Respond with kindness- Matthew 7:12 Therefore, whatever you want others to do for you, do also the same for them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.
- Did you take the time to wait on God's justice? Remember to check out these passages for encouragement in the waiting.
  - Check out Psalm 94 to see King David struggling with waiting for God's vengeance.
  - Read Psalm 37 to see the promise of what will happen when we follow God's plan for us

#### This Week's Take-Aways

- **About Humanity:** (John 3:16) I believe all people are fallen in sin, but loved by God who has taken the initiative to save humanity from its sinfulness.
- **Identity:** (John 1:12) I have worth and value because I am made in God's image and am His child. As His child, I live my life to bring glory to God and to serve His purposes.
- **Peace:** (Philippians 4:4-7) I enjoy peace with God as I become more confident in God's grace and experience His presence in my life. I enjoy peace with others as engage in biblically healthy relationships with them. I seek to deal rightly with those who have wronged or offended me as I pursue peace with them.

## Intro Questions

- What are some examples from pop culture or anecdotally from your own life that demonstrate the culture's advice to follow your heart in order to make the right decisions in daily life? What do you think is the driving force behind that counsel?
- What are some examples of actions or conditions that are accepted in our culture that would have been outrageous a century ago? Which of these progressions are consistent with the Scriptures, and which ones are a departure from the Scriptures?
- Why is it a sign of pride to follow your own heart?

## The Dangers of Pride

Ezekiel 16:49

*Now this was the iniquity of your sister Sodom: She and her daughters had pride, plenty of food, and comfortable security, but didn't support the poor and needy.*

- What symptom of pride is exhibited by Sodom in this verse?
- How does pride blind us to the needs of others?
- How do we see this happening today?

Proverbs 15:25

*The Lord tears apart the house of the proud, but he protects the widow's territory.*

Proverbs 16:18

*Pride comes before destruction, and an arrogant spirit before a fall.*

James 4:6

*But he gives greater grace. Therefore he says: God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.*

- What are the results of pride shown in these verses?
- What are the results of humility shown in these verses?

Proverbs 21:2

*All a person's ways seem right to him, but the Lord weighs hearts.*

Proverbs 14:12

*There is a way that seems right to a person, but its end is the way to death.*

Jeremiah 17:9

*The heart is more deceitful than anything else, and incurable – who can understand it?*

## Mark 7:21–22

*For from within, out of people's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immoralities, thefts, murders, adulteries, greed, evil actions, deceit, promiscuity, stinginess, blasphemy, pride, and foolishness.*

- What does the Bible say about the condition of our hearts?
- How does this fly in the face of what our culture teaches?

## 1 Peter 5:5-8

*In the same way, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. All of you clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your cares on him, because he cares about you. Be sober-minded, be alert. Your adversary the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for anyone he can devour.*

- What is God actively doing to the proud?
- What is the antidote to pride according to this verse? What is the reward when we do this?

## What do we do?

**Don't be wise in your own eyes.**

### Proverbs 15:33

*The fear of the Lord is what wisdom teaches, and humility comes before honor.*

### Proverbs 1:7

*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and discipline.*

### Proverbs 9:10

*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.*

- What does it mean to fear the Lord?
- What does fear of the Lord lead to?
- What does fear of the Lord drive us to do?

### Proverbs 11:2 (CSB)

*When arrogance comes, disgrace follows, but with humility comes wisdom.*

### Proverbs 16:18–20 (CSB)

*Pride comes before destruction, and an arrogant spirit before a fall. Better to be lowly of spirit with the humble than to divide plunder with the proud. The one who understands a matter finds success, and the one who trusts in the Lord will be happy.*

- What is the ultimate result of living a life filled with pride?
- What is the ultimate result of living a life of trusting in the Lord?

## Learn from godly people.

### **Parents:**

Proverbs 1:8 (CSB)

*Listen, my son, to your father's instruction, and don't reject your mother's teaching,*

- This verse and many other instruct us to listen to our parents as God's authority in our lives. Share an example of advice or wisdom from your upbringing that has paid dividends for you.

### **Pastor or church leaders:**

Hebrews 13:17

*Obey your leaders and submit to them, since they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account, so that they can do this with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.*

- Share an example of advice or wisdom from a pastor or church leader that has paid dividends for you.

### **Godly friends:**

Proverbs 15:22 (CSB)

*Plans fail when there is no counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.*

- Share an example of advice or wisdom from a friend or advisor that has paid dividends for you.

## **All wisdom is godly - (or it's not wisdom!).**

Proverbs 29:18

*Without revelation people run wild, but one who follows divine instruction will be happy.*

Deuteronomy 6:4–9

*"Listen, Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. These words that I am giving you today are to be in your heart. Repeat them to your children. Talk about them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Bind them as a sign on your hand and let them be a symbol on your forehead. Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your city gates.*

- What does it mean to fully integrate God's wisdom into our lives? Making His wisdom our wisdom?
- Where and how do we find God's wisdom?

## Next Steps

### Philippians 2:3–11 (CSB)

*Do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves. Everyone should look not to his own interests, but rather to the interests of others. Adopt the same attitude as that of Christ Jesus, who, existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God as something to be exploited. Instead he emptied himself by assuming the form of a servant, taking on the likeness of humanity. And when he had come as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death – even to death on a cross. For this reason God highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow – in heaven and on earth and under the earth – and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

- How did Jesus show His humility?
- In what ways can we practice humility in our own lives?

### Psalms 93:1 (CSB)

*The Lord reigns! He is robed in majesty; the Lord is robed, enveloped in strength. The world is firmly established; it cannot be shaken.*

### Deuteronomy 33:29 (CSB)

*How happy you are, Israel! Who is like you, a people saved by the Lord? He is the shield that protects you, the sword you boast in. Your enemies will cringe before you, and you will tread on their backs.*

- Where should our pride be?
- Ask those closest to you if you are a prideful person- they can see your blindspots and help you avoid destruction!

### Questions from *Exalting Jesus in Proverbs (Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary)* by Jonathan Akin:

- Give some examples of counsel that people give to others at work, to friends, or to their neighbors about marriage, parenting, work, finances, etc., that would be considered “worldly wisdom” by the Bible. What does the Bible counsel in those situations instead?
- Give some examples of how pride can lead you to ruin and heartache in your life.
- We are called to humbly look to God and his Word for wisdom. What are some practical ways we can do that in our daily lives?
- Have you ever received counsel that was extremely helpful to you? What about unhelpful counsel? What was the difference between the two?
- Why does it require humility to seek counsel?
- Why does God tell us to submit to authority—even if it is not necessarily Christian authority?
- What criteria should determine when you reject authority?