

Women of Grace

Lesson 19 | Pride & Humility

It is easy to think we humble ourselves before God, but humility towards men will be the only sufficient proof that our humility before God is real—that humility has taken up its abode in us and become our very nature—that we actually, like Christ, have made ourselves of no reputation...The lesson is one of deep import: The only humility that is really ours is not that which we try to show before God in prayer, but that which we carry with us, and carry out, in our ordinary conduct.

— Andrew Murray, *Humility*, pp.47-48

Memorization Verse
James 1:23

For if anyone is a hearer of the word
and not a doer,
he is like a man
who looks at his natural face in a mirror...

DAY 1 | Defining Pride and Humility

Read selected Scriptures

1. From last week's lesson or lecture, what principle on the wise use of money has changed your thinking or encouraged you to take steps to grow in this area?

2. Using a dictionary, define both "pride" and "humility." Do these definitions imply a negative or positive interpretation?

- a. How do you think the world interprets pride and humility? With that in mind, why would it be important for believers to define their meaning in conversations with unbelievers?

3. When the word “pride” is used in the Bible, it almost always refers to arrogance and a sinful elevation of self. How do Proverbs 30:11–14 and Isaiah 66:1–2 better help you understand pride and humility?

4. According to Proverbs 11:2, how does wisdom relate to humility? How could understanding this help direct you in acquiring and growing in wisdom?

5. Where do you see evidences of pride in your thoughts and attitudes? How is pride manifest in your personal time with the Lord, or in your relationships or ministry involvement?

6. How do you identify humility in the lives of those around you? Think of someone who has exemplified this godly attitude and share with your group how that has encouraged you to humble your own heart.

DAY 2 | How God Regards Pride and Humility

Read Proverbs 16:1–9 and selected Scriptures

1. In Proverbs 16:1–9, why is it wrong for man to boast in himself?
2. According to verse 5, how does God regard those who are proud in heart, and what is its consequence? (Use a dictionary to define description.)
 - a. How can meditating on these truths help you fight the temptation to be proud?
3. In Proverbs 8:13, how does the fear of the Lord relate to pride?
4. According to Psalms 25:9 and 138:6, how does God provide and care for the humble?
 - a. How does this motivate you to grow in humility?
5. Do you view pride and humility the way that God does? Take some time to ask the Lord to help you see your pride as He does and strengthen your pursuit of humility.

DAY 3 | The Outcomes of Pride and Humility

Read selected Scriptures

1. From the following texts, list the results of pride and the results of humility.

Passage	Results of Pride	Passage	Results of Humility
a. 15:25 & 16:18		a. 15:33 & 18:12	
b. 29:23		b. 22:4	

2. How do you reconcile these verses with the fact that sometimes the proud seem to gain honor and succeed in their endeavors?

3. How does Jesus' parable in Luke 18:9–14 inform your view of how pride and humility relate to saving faith?

4. Pride in the life of the believer affects not only the individual but also the entire body of Christ. According to Romans 12:3–21, why is humility so important in the life of the church?

- a. Identify areas where your pride might be affecting your service to the Lord, then identify how you can grow in humble service to the church. Be specific.

DAY 4 | Examples of Pride and Humility

Read selected Scriptures

1. Read the account of King Uzziah in 2 Chronicles 26:6–21. How does he exhibit the kind of pride that is warned against in Proverbs?
 - a. How do Uzziah's example and God's judgement deepen your understanding of the gravity of pride and the danger it poses to living wisely before God? (Remember that skillful living was one of Solomon's goals for his son, identified in Proverbs 1:1–8 and 2:1–6.)

2. From 2 Chronicles 32:20–26, how did God use Hezekiah's pride and humility to impact his own life and that of the people of Judah?
 - a. Do you consider the consequences for continued pride, either for yourself or those around you? Find a verse or passage on which to meditate to humble your heart before the almighty God, then share that with your group.

3. In John 13:5–15 and Philippians 2:8, how did Jesus show humility?
 - a. According to 1 Peter 2:21, what did Jesus' life provide believers? How does that motivate you towards greater humility, specifically in your treatment of others?

DAY 5 | Killing Pride and Cultivating Humility

Read selected Scriptures

1. According to Proverbs 28:25–26, how is the arrogant man described and with whom is he contrasted?
 - a. How do you think humility and trust are connected?
 - b. Using Scripture to support your answer, why are believers instructed to not trust in man?
 - c. In what areas of your life are you tempted to be prideful and trust in your own strength, rather than fully depend on God? What steps are you taking to change?
2. According to Micah 6:8, what does the Lord require of believers?
 - a. Identify one practical way you can implement this instruction in your life this week.

3. Remember the big picture of Proverbs as Solomon instructed his son to seek wisdom and live skillfully. Proverbs explains and exhorts believers how to make wise choices and excel in the practical areas of life, including one's speech, relationships, stewardship of money and possessions, work, and, in this lesson, humility before God and others. How have you seen God's character displayed through your study in Proverbs this week, and what practical difference has that made in how you live?

4. Write a brief prayer of praise to the Lord for His greatness and work of sanctification in your life.