

Theme: The wise person rejects pride and embrace the humility that flows from recognizing our own unworthiness before God.

I. Intro – A Difficult Subject to Speak On!

- A. How does one speak on humility?
- B. Pride ingrained – who can speak with authority?
- C. “I am humble” – really?
- D. Yet I must – a clear topic in Wisdom Books

II. Humility and Pride in Scripture

- A. Text – Pride, disgrace; humility, wisdom
- B. Avoid pride; embrace humility (16:19; Mic 6:8; Luk 14:11)
- C. The pitfalls of pride
 - 1. Pride brings a fall (16:18; 18:12; 29:23)
 - 2. Men attack the proud (Pro 17:19)
 - 3. God detests pride (6:16-19; 16:5)
 - 4. God opposes the proud (1 Pet 5:5-6)
- D. The benefits of humility
 - 1. Humility brings wisdom (11:2)
 - 2. Humility brings honor (15:33)
 - 3. Humility brings God’s saving help (Ps 18:27; 1 Pet 5:5-6)

- 4. God exalts the humble (Luk 14:11; 1 Pet 5:6)

III. Understanding Pride and Humility

- A. An initial definition of pride and humility
 - 1. Pride – exaggerated self evaluation leading to selfishness
 - a. Rom 12:3 - more highly than ought
 - b. Phil 2:3,4 – exaggerated self evaluation; own interests
 - 2. Humility – proper self-evaluation leading to service
 - a. Rom 12:3 – sober judgment; know gifts
 - b. Phil 2:3-4 – others better; others interests; mercy
- B. Humility displayed – Jesus - Phil 2:5-11
 - 1. Christ took nature of servant (vv5-7)
 - 2. Christ humbled Himself & died (v8)
 - 3. Result – God exalts Him (vv9-11)

IV. Conclusion & Summary

- A. Do you see how upside down our world is?
 - 1. We think of humility as weak in dog eat dog world
 - 2. Our culture encourages pride – sports, Marines
- B. Do you see pride’s pitfalls and humility’s blessings?
 - 1. Pride prevents growth in character & service

2. Pride really does lead to destruction!
3. Humility allows growth in character & service
4. Humility brings God's intervention

C. Humble before God? (Luke 18:9-14)

1. Intro - the proud are self-righteous (v9)
2. Pharisee – proud, self-righteous (vv10-12)
3. Tax collector – humble before God (v13)
4. Conclusion – humble are justified (v14)

D. Communion

The Humility of the Wise

Proverbs 11:2

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Communion

James 1:21b paraphrase

19 Better to be lowly in spirit and among the oppressed than to share plunder with the proud. Proverbs 16:19

8 He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8

11 For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted. Luke 14:11

18 Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall. Pro 16:18

12 Before his downfall a man's heart is proud, but humility comes before honor. Proverbs 18:12

23 A man's pride brings him low, but a man of lowly spirit gains honor. Proverbs 29:23

19 He who loves a quarrel loves sin; he who builds a high gate invites destruction. Proverbs 17:19

16 There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to him: 17 haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, 18 a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, 19 a false witness who pours out lies and a man who stirs up dissension among brothers. Proverbs 6:16-19

5 The LORD detests all the proud of heart. Be sure of this: They will not go unpunished. Proverbs 16:5

5 Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." 1 Peter 5:5

33 The fear of the LORD teaches a man wisdom, and humility comes before honor. Proverbs 15:33

27 You save the humble but bring low those whose eyes are haughty. Psalm 18:27

5 Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." 6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. 1 Peter 5:5-6

11 For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted. Luke 14:11

6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. 1 Peter 5:6

3 For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. Romans 12:3

3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. 4 Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Philippians 2:3-4

5 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, 7 but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. Philippians 2:5-7

8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross! Philippians 2:8

9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, 10 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. Phi 2:9-11

9 To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable: Luke 18:9

10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The 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. 12 I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' Luke 18:10-12

13 "But 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.' Luke 18:13

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 18:14