



Pride, also called *vainglory*, is often a hidden sin. A vice that, like any other, can separate us from God and each other. Pride is born of insecurity and worry over how we are viewed by others. Jesus gives us a picture of a life of humility, the opposite of pride. A humble person recognizes her or his value is not dependent on performance or what others think, but is due to the unsurpassable worth ascribed by God. When we see ourselves through God's eyes and in light of who he is and what he has done for us we can neither puff ourselves up or look down on ourselves or others.

Optional reading: chapter 8 of The Good and Beautiful Life.

GETTING STARTED

- (Good Pride) Describe a time when you have been proud of someone else or yourself for a job well done.
- (Vainglory Pride) Describe a time when you have experienced pride that has disconnected you from others or God.

DISCUSSION

1. Read Matthew 5:16. What is the purpose for our good work in the world? How can pride divert that intent?
2. Read 1 Peter 5:5. Quoting from the Old Testament, Peter notes that God opposes the proud. How might pride be destructive for us? Can you give an example from your own life of how a prideful moment was hurtful?
3. Read Matthew 6:1–8 & 16–18. Giving, prayer, and fasting are the three practices listed in Jesus' sermon that had been taken over by pride in his day. What are some present day illustrations of how pride (and the condition of one's heart) can muddy these or other spiritual practices?
4. Jesus uses the word hypocrite, which can be translated as "one who wears a mask." What are some of the masks we are tempted to wear?
5. What is your go to "mask" when you are feeling insecure?
6. Read Psalm 139:23–24. How might this prayer help us overcome the vice of pride?

LIVE IT OUT

This week find five people to serve without taking credit; do your best to serve in secret. Choose some people you know and some you don't, and serve in both little and big ways. At the end of each day pray for the person you served and that God might continue to grow true humility in your own heart.

MEMORIZATION CHALLENGE

In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. *Matthew 5:16*

PRAY

Jesus, by the power of your Holy Spirit, shape my heart to match your humility. Test me and know my heart. Point out any part of my character that needs your healing touch. Amen.