



Proverbs 29:23

BIG IDEA

The Christian life is the supernatural expansion of the moral imagination that gives life to a new person in us.

ICE BREAKER

In our pride we think we have no limits. We think we can assess a person's character in short order. We think we are God in those moments. We say, "Oh, she's this kind of person." In our current pandemic many talk like they know everything. We talk with such self assurance. Instead let's humbly act like there is a limit to what we know. This pushes us away from pride. Now we can hear what others have to say.

Matt was working on the sermon and he received a text that said, "Let me know when I can come back to church and worship like an adult." Do you see the pride in it? Share one area regarding this pandemic where you have judged what someone believes or how someone acts without knowing the whole story (note the limits to our knowledge of the person and the situation). Can you see the sneaky presence of pride in this? Let's embrace our limits together.

NEXT STEP

Not given today.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Share with the group how important you think it is for you to personally examine your own pride? Why do you give the answer you give?

In Luke 18:10-12 Jesus gives us a contrast and Jesus wants to invite us to be reflective and to see ourselves in one of these two men. One man becomes proud

of his righteousness. The other, a tax collector, asks for mercy. There are 4 contrasts in this passage: 1. The pharisees' posture is up. He is very assured about himself. The tax collector is far off and his head is down. 2. There is a contrast in the words each man says. The pharisee has much to say. The tax collector has little to say. 3. The contrast of their disposition. The Pharisee is a teller and the tax collector is an asker. He says he is not worthy. 4. The contrast of their self image. The pharisee is assured in who he is so he is closed off to critique. The tax collector is open.

2. Discuss as a group the following: What does my pride really look like using these 4 contrasts? We can learn so much from one another in this area.
3. Discuss (imagine together) some ideas to help us in moving from pride to humility. Discuss how being open to feedback is part of the journey toward humility.

NOTES AND QUOTES

Question to focus on is, "How are you proud?" Not, "Are you proud?"

We don't change because we receive information. We won't change until an idea is in our imagination it is then that we grasp it in full. So, it is important to cultivate a moral imagination.

"The Christian life is much more than suppression of sin. It is the supernatural expansion of the moral imagination that gives life to a new person in us that can only be explained by Christ's presence in us."

"Pride is the veiled belief that I am better than God." An example of pride is a sassy posture with parents. When we are kids our posture and tone with our parents reveals that we thought we were better than them.

Pride is a direct attack and offense toward God Himself.

Artwork titled "The Thinker". The thinker is looking down into hell and he's very reflective. If we travel to the good heart of humility we must be reflective as well.

How do we make room in our mind to make any type of movement toward true humility? It begins with examining the topic of pride. **We must see pride as vile.**

The road from pride to humility does not require a set of tasks but an expanding of our moral imaginations.