

Pride: The Root of Evil

June 7-8, 2008

The Main Thing

Pride is at the root of most of our problems in life. But that is not inevitable! Humility is something which we can work on. We can “humble ourselves.” Three strategies for humbling ourselves are: (i) Practice being insulted. Get to the point where you don’t feel the need to defend yourself. (ii) Take it to God. Pray constantly for help in recognizing and not giving into pride. (iii) Submit to community. Lean into the people around you, and then submit to their questions and challenges.

Our Scripture Focus

Genesis 3:1-5; Matthew 18:1-4.

Questions for Discussion

1. When has pride been a root of one of your problems? In that situation, how did the pride creep up in you? What triggered the pride?
2. Think of your marriage, your interactions at work, and your friendships in light of pride and humility. What actions or words could you exhibit in these relationships to humble yourself?
3. Whom do you know who could give you advice or analysis, particularly to guard against making a pride-motivated decision? Who knows you, has your interests at heart, and also has a track record of making good decisions themselves?

The Bottom Line

It is hard for us to be honest about pride in our lives. We have trouble recognizing it. We are capable of humbling ourselves, but concrete steps and practice are necessary to do so.

Where We Go From Here

Next week we will continue our series, *Pride*.

Talking with God This Week

Lord, help me to diagnose the problems in my life accurately. Especially, help me to see where and how my pride is a root of any of my weaknesses or difficulties.