

PRIDE

Genesis 3:1-7, 1 Peter 5:4-5

Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- Do you consider yourself to be a proud person? Why or why not?
- If someone asked you to define pride, what words would you use? What examples might you give? Do you think of pride in a more positive or negative way?

According to both the Bible and universal Christian tradition, pride is the first sin, the chief sin, and the root of most other sins. Yet, we're often encouraged to take pride in ourselves, our heritage, and our work. There might be a fine line between healthy and sinful pride, but studying both the original biblical example of pride and the Apostle Peter's teaching about pride will help us dig deeper into the nature of this sin: what it is, what it isn't, and how to combat it.

Reflection

After listening, consider:

- How has your understanding and definition of pride changed after listening to Dave Bast and Scott Hoezee discuss Genesis 3? Is it more nuanced? What clarifications enlightened or convicted you?
- When are you most susceptible to pride? Do you ever get caught up in how obedient you are to God, all the good things you do for Him, or how right you are in your interpretation of the Bible or your worship?
- In what areas of your life do you seem to always try to take over or control, and rely on yourself rather than God? How can being honest with yourself about this lead you on the path toward humility?
- Why is false humility or perverted humility just another form of pride?
- In *Mere Christianity*, C.S. Lewis writes, "The real test of being in the presence of God is that you either forget about yourself all together or see yourself as a small, dirty object. It is better to forget about yourself altogether." Why does this matter, why does he say forgetting is better than seeing all your bad qualities? How does it help us combat pride?

Related Passages

- **1 Samuel 17**
- **Luke 1:46-55**
- **2 Chronicles 26**
- **Philippians 2:1-11**

Conclusion

Consider the biblical command in Micah 6:8, “He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” Think about how focusing on justice, kindness, and walking humbly with God helps you forget yourself altogether as C.S. Lewis recommends. Pray as God leads you; confess your moments of pride, surrender yourself to Him, request the mind of Christ, and seek the Holy Spirit’s continued assistance in addressing the areas of pride in your life.

<https://groundworkonline.com/episodes/pride>

Printed on April 16, 2024