

D1: The Heart—The Danger of Pride

1. Wellspring Purpose and Disciplines

Purpose: To equip and encourage _____ to shepherd _____ heart toward Jesus Christ with the word of God so that _____ live a gospel-transformed life, thus strengthening the church in its gospel purpose.

Discipline one-_____ heart: _____ prayerfully shepherd _____ heart toward God through the word of God, and in particular, the gospel.

Discipline two-_____ home: _____ minister to those in _____ household with _____ heart for God and the gospel.

Discipline three-ministry: With a heart for God and the gospel, and fulfilling _____ ministry within _____ household, _____ step into the church to shepherd others toward God and the gospel.

"That is how Scripture differs from an encyclopedia. When I use an encyclopedia, I do not need to read other articles to understand the one I am reading at the moment. One article has no connection to another; there are no overarching themes. In the Bible, however, every passage is dependent on the whole, and the whole Bible is held together by interdependent themes that run through every passage like rebar, the steel rods that reinforce concrete. . . These themes give me a sense of identity, purpose, and direction that will fundamentally alter the way I think, desire, speak, and act. . . The sad fact is that many of us are simply not biblical in the way we use the Bible! Being biblical does not mean merely quoting words from within its pages. Being truly biblical means that my counsel reflects what the entire Bible is about. The Bible is a narrative, a story of redemption, and its chief character is Jesus Christ. He is the main theme of the narrative, and he is revealed in every passage of the book. Lasting change begins when our identity, purpose, and sense of direction are defined by God's story." (Paul David Tripp, *Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands* 26-28)

AN ILLUSTRATION FOR D1: THE HEART—the relationship between the word of God and the God of the word.

2. The danger to which pride exposes the heart

Deuteronomy 17:14-20 (v. 20)

How About Me?....

Do I realize that I will exalt myself without a steady diet of God's Word? Do I realize that I will start thinking that somebody else needs God's Word more than I do?

Proverbs 16:5

How About Me?...

Do I preach the gospel realities to my heart, and let them turn me away from that arrogance for which Christ suffered and died?

Hosea 13: 4-6 (Deuteronomy 8:11-20)

How About Me?...

Do I see how dangerous a prideful heart is...because it leads to divine forgetfulness?

2 Chronicles 26:4-5, 16-18

How About Me?...

Am I ever tempted to grasp authority which hasn't been given to me?

2 Chronicles 32:24-26

How About Me?...

How might I fail to respond to God's kindness?

How About Me?...

Do I recognize the impact my pride has on others? How might others experience consequences from my sin?

Obadiah 1:2-3 (Jeremiah 49:16)

How About Me?...

In what ways do I trust in my own opinions and experience instead of God's Word?

3. Cultivating Humility

Defining humility

The meek man is not a human mouse afflicted with a sense of his own inferiority. He has accepted God's estimate of his own life: in himself, nothing; in God, everything. He knows well that the world will never see him as God sees him and he has stopped caring. (A. W. Tozer)

Humility is nothing else but a right judgment of ourselves. (William Law)

1 Peter 5:5-7

Where there's worry, where there's anxiousness, pride is at the root of it. When I am experiencing anxiety, the root issue is that I'm trying to be self-sufficient. I'm acting independent of God." (CJ Mahaney, *Humility* 75)

Colossians 3:12-14

1. The command to be humble is grounded in our gospel identity.

"Preaching the gospel to myself each day mounts a powerful assault against my pride and serves to establish humility in its place. Nothing suffocates my pride more than daily reminders regarding the glory of my God, the gravity of my sins, and the crucifixion of God's own Son in my place. Also, the gracious love of God, lavished on me because of Christ's death, is always humbling to remember, especially when viewed against the backdrop of the Hell I deserve." (Milton Vincent, *A Gospel Primer* 27-28)

2. Humility serves a greater purpose—it's essential for building unity and love between believers.

John 13:34-35 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."