

D1: The Heart—The Danger of Pride and the Hope of the Gospel

1. The Wellspring Purpose and Disciplines:

"Think of what you know of God through the gospel . . . and apply it. Think against your feelings; argue yourself out of the gloom they have spread; unmask the unbelief they have nourished; take yourself in hand, talk to yourself, make yourself look up from your problems to the gospel; let evangelical thinking correct emotional thinking." (J. I. Packer, *Knowing God*, 260)

Colossians 3:1-4

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, Romans 2:4

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."