

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

Pride Stunts Growth

Passage: Romans 12:3-6

Introduction: Jesus saves personally and then calls each person to have both a personal and public faith. Not a private faith, but personal and public—we are part of a larger group of people called the church. Individual Christians make up the body of Christ, and we grow spiritually and contribute to the body as we foster a humble, others-oriented life. Such living glorifies the Lord who has saved us!

Additional passages: 1 Cor. 12:7, 26; Gal. 5:13-16; Phil. 2:3-4; 2 Cor. 9:8; 2 Tim. 2:1; Heb. 13:9.

Questions:

1. John noted that if you go listen to a symphony orchestra the portions where the solo instrumentalists play are impressive. For the entire orchestra to produce a unified sound though, it requires every musician to subordinate to the good of the whole. The joint sound is one of a kind, not replicable by any one instrument.
 - **How does this translate over to life in the local church? Consider Galatians 5:13-16 and Philippians 2:3-4.**
2. John noted one trait we associate with grace is leniency—kindness extended to the undeserving. Biblically though, grace is far stronger than that. God saves and also empowers or strengthens through grace.
 - **Consider 2 Cor 9:8, 2 Tim 2:1, and Heb 13:9. Is the idea of receiving strength through grace a new one for you? Thoughts on this?**
3. Romans 12:3 warns believers to not think of themselves “more highly than they ought.” John spoke of those who display pride by exaggerating their importance. For example, disagreements turn into contests, becoming battles to win instead of opportunities to learn.
 - **Is this frequently true of you? In what situations, or with which people, are you particularly prone to this kind of pride?**
4. John noted that another way we can let pride run amok is by insulating our frailty. This is the quieter, sulky pride: over-explaining to justify behavior; avoiding situations where you might fail, withdrawing or being quiet as a masquerade for humility.
 - **Is this sort of pride present in your heart? How are you combatting it?**
5. John explained that a measure of faith (12:3) is a stewardship given. In Consider Redeemer, we talk about giving your time, talent and treasure as Missional Partners.
 - **What stewardship has God given you in talent—both in ability and opportunity? How is it going with stewarding those opportunities well?**
6. **A key way to combat pride and promote humility is to regularly give and receive godly encouragement and godly critique. Spend time in your group and in your home talking about these four skills and how you could grow in them in your relationships:**

- a. Giving godly encouragement
- b. Receiving godly encouragement
- c. Giving godly critique
- d. Receiving godly critique