

Growth Group Study Guide

Sermon: Pride Comes Before the Fall

Week #: 2010-02 - January 10, 2010

Quick Review: This Sunday we were encouraged to live with a biblical confidence. Modern society promotes a sense of 'entitled selfishness' disguised as 'self-confidence'. As you recall the sermon from Sunday, what struck you as thought provoking or challenging in how you live with others?

My Story: 'Pride comes before the fall' – where have you seen this demonstrated in recent 'news' items? Can a person be 'confident' without being 'conceited'? Was there a time in your life when an act or decision of 'pride' led to a humbling experience?

Digging Deeper:

In what situations is it appropriate to be assertive? How do we live as 'servants of Christ' in a selfish society?

Matthew 20:25-28 'Jesus called them together and said, 'you know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave – just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.'

Matthew 7:12 'so in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.'

How is God calling us to live in dependence of His leading? What self gratifying actions do we need to confess to God? How can we demonstrate our trust in Christ through our daily choices?

Proverbs 29

Vs. 1 'a man who remains stiff-necked after many rebukes will suddenly be destroyed – without remedy.'

Vs. 7 'the righteous care about justice for the poor, but the wicked have no such concern.'

Vs. 22 'an angry man stirs up dissension, and a hot-tempered one commits many sins.'

Vs. 25 'fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is kept safe.'

Taking it Home:

Faith comes from hearing the word of God, then acting on what the Word says to our hearts. In silent reflection, please consider, is there someone that you need to seek forgiveness from this week – having spoken to in anger or with selfish intent?

Biblical assertiveness includes praying to God for wisdom, consulting others and establishing a plan of action, and being prepared to ask the right questions – can you think of a situation in your life that you may want to address using this kind of assertiveness?