**A person in a white shirt

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**The Pride Filter: How Do You Process Things in Your Life?**

**Big Idea of the Series:** This 2-week (can stretch to 3 weeks) serieswill cover how pride is so destructive in our lives. It is the root of most all problems that we face in our relationships, attitudes and how we do things in our lives.

**Week 1**

**Text:** Proverbs 29:23, 2 Corinthians 10:5 & 2 Samuel 6

**Topic:** Pride’s Filter vs. God’s Filter

**Big Idea of the Message:** *1 John 1:8 says this, “If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.”* Every single one of us has this pride filter built into us because of sin. Pride was the first sin in the Universe that formed in Satan because of his arrogance, vanity and selfishness. And when we do not take every thought to the Holy Spirit who is our God filter - then all our thoughts, emotions, actions will be processed through this pride filter.

**Sermon Ideas and Talking Points:**

1. **Pride vs. Holiness:** *Proverbs 29:23: “A man’s pride will bring him low, but the humble in spirit will retain honor.”*The Lord said in *Matthew 5:3: “Blessed are the poor in spirit**[those who are devoid of spiritual arrogance and pride because of their surrender to Christ; those who regard themselves as insignificant because the cause of Christ is more significant], for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”*2 Corinthians 10:5 tells us what it looks like when you are living a life that is flowing through the Holy Spirit:*“…casting down arguments* **(**with people and with your own mind!)*and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God* (that is pride!),*bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ…”*But how can we do this? How can we live a life like this?Let’s take look at a few examples of funneling our thoughts, feelings and emotions through the pride filter vs. the God filter.

* *There was a billboard sign that read, “21,000 men will die of stubbornness this year.” And spray painted below it, it said, “No we won’t!”*

1. **Worship**: Let’s take singing, praising…worship for example. You might be saying, “I really want to let myself go all out when singing worship, but I am afraid people will look at me.” What filter do you think that is flowing out from? **The pride filter. The feelings filter. The emotional filter.**

Whatever you want to call it, realize it is a dirty filter and will poison you. If someone is judging how you worship, that is their pride issue. And yes, some have pride thicker than superglue in a tar pit. But all pride is sin. This is not a performance issue. **You are not performing. You are glorifying, you are magnifying – God.** Not for you or for anyone else, but for Jesus alone.We cast our crowns, our voices, our yielded hearts and applause at His throne.

1. **Worship Like King David***: 2 Samuel 6:14: “And David danced before the LORD with all his might…”* David didn’t hold back at all. He let it all go for the Lord! In front of everyone! Here is the King of Israel, a strong man, a visible man, a well-known man, a man of high integrity…and he’s so consumed with the great blessings of God and what He has done, that he’s dancing (picture this …jumping and shouting and singing) **“with all of his might.”** David’s total, unhinged worship is a challenge to us, because we are so aloof and so insecure that we worship God in a broom closet of self-conscious reservation. Why? Because of the pride filter that our thoughts run through before we start to worship.

Go for it and if someone does react or give you a look or whatever, David showed us how to handle that too…*2 Samuel 6:20: “Michal, the daughter of Saul, came out to meet David and said (sarcastically), ‘How the king of Israel honored himself today, uncovering himself today before the eyes of his female servants, as one of the vulgar fellows shamelessly uncovers himself!”* What was Michal’s problem? See was worried about pleasing people! You see, total heartfelt, surrendered, animated worship will often make you look stupid in someone else’s eyes. That is because their eyes are seeing your display of worship through their pride filter. David gave his wife the perfect response to her displeasure - *2 Samuel 6:21: “It was before the LORD…’”.*

Yes! David did not care what anyone thought, because He had a full heart to worship God. He did not care what people thought, not even his own wife.

David cared what God thought and He showed His love for the greatness of God by expressing it in his worship. Not in a dignified way that the people thought a king should, but in a way that a child expresses innocent and unashamed joy! You ever notice that kids never have an issue with expressing themselves until they get a look or a word from someone else? Then they get shy or stop doing it. It is the same for us. We are so driven by our pride filter for the approval of people that it inhibits our worship of the One who created, saved and sustains us!

So, ask yourself, “Am I like David in my worship? Is my worship flowing freely through the Spirit of God or is it beaten, worn, defused and halted through the filter of pride that resides in my body? It is not the fear and condemnation that stifles you from worshiping God with all your might. It is your pride that worries about those things; so instead of giving your all to the Lord in worship you go into self-preservation mode because you don’t want anyone looking at you. **You do understand that when you do that, God is looking at you too!!!**

**Message LifePoint***:* Our worship, like David’s worship must be God-centered. You should worship God like you do when alone in the field, the shower, or in the car. And because David’s worship was God-centered, he did not care what anyone thought of him. Neither should you. He told Michal that, *“I will become even more undignified than this, and I will be humiliated in my own eyes. But by these slave girls you spoke of, I will be held in honor.”* David is saying that His worship can still go even deeper!

David is an example to us of a man who sought to grow in his worship, not settle down in a pride producing safe zone. Many churches in this world have no idea how to worship. It is either too rigid or performance based. It is lifeless or it is a stage show. King David showed us that Holy Spirit produced and led worship will fill a place with the presence of God. But pride will always stop it from happening. Pride kills worship. Pride destroys praise. Pride decimates a choir of God’s children from singing praises whole-heartedly to our Savior.

***Remember it was the sin of pride that changed the worship leader in heaven… into the devil.***

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**Week 2 - Conclusion**

**Text:** Jeremiah 17:9, Proverbs 28:26 & Galatians 6:3

**Topic:** Pride and It’s Influence in Life

**Big Idea of the Message:** *Pride hurts every relationship we have, how we function in everyday life, and how we view ourselves. It also strains our fellowship with God. Pride goes before a fall. Humility before God will prevent that fall.*

**Sermon Ideas and Talking Points:**

1. **Pride and Relationships**: How about when you think or feel someone is upset with you. The pride filter will tell you to hide, avoid, run, get away from them. Which then opens the floodgates of inaccurate emotions. Every thought now free flowing through the pride filter; which does what? Causes stress, anxiety, triggering of bad habits, possibly even loss of relationships/friendships because of the lies that generate from the pride that is swelling in your heart. Which all came from where? You self-generated it because you allowed it to filter through your pride instead of taking it captive and surrendering it to Jesus. *Jeremiah 17:9: “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?” Proverbs 28:26: “Whoever trusts in his own mind is a fool, but he who walks in wisdom will be delivered.”*

So, our own heart and mind can deceive us because of this pride filter. What in the world can we do then? Give it to Jesus. Therefore, Jesus tells us in *John 15:5: “…that apart from Me you can do nothing.”* We cannot. If we think that we can, and most people do, then that is pride. That is pride with a capital “P” free-falling off the rails. Therefore, every thought, feeling and emotion must be taken to the truth of God’s Word. You know something, the issue with this other person or people; they may not even think about it or know that you even have an issue!

What do you think the Lord would say? You say, “Lord, I think they are upset with me and are not my friend anymore. I think I hurt or made them mad somehow and I am not sure if I can face them again or they do not want me around.”

Then the Lord will probably say what? “Go and talk to them.” See the difference? But many times, people do not do what God says. Why? P.R.I.D.E.

1. **Pride in Ourselves**: How about the person that knows everything; wait, that thinks that they know everything. Pride. *Galatians 6:3: “For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.” Proverbs 26:12: “Do you see a man who is wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him.”* Pride constructs a shallow house and builds a mirage around our lives. Humility brings reality to our lives that shows the cracks in our structure. They will see that we will never fall because they can see through those cracks and see Jesus Christ as our foundation.

How about being corrected by the Holy Spirit or someone at church, a parent, a spouse, a teacher, a friend or a boss at work? That is when the pride filter works at 100% maximum capacity! Does it not? Men especially, but ladies too. We cannot stand being corrected…Flames come out of your butt and smoke out of your nostrils! You get so elevated in your pride that your feelings make you straight crazy in the situation – right? If you don’t agree on this, then guess what? Your pride is showing.

Do you ever notice how you handle these types of situations? Yeah? You will fight tooth and nail to justify yourself. Won’t you? That is because every thought and emotion is now flowing through that pride filter and the result are these actions that we display because of it. *Hebrews 12:11: “For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.” Proverbs 12:1: “Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid.”*

1. **Repent of that Pride and be Humbled**: But when we take it to Christ and run it by Him, we will be humbled, and we will appreciate the correction. Pride promotes and brings strife. You ever sense it welling up in you? Absolutely you do.

The only cure and putting that cancerous growth of pride into submission is to take it immediately to the Holy Spirt. So that it can be properly managed through the filter of God’s Word. *James 4:4-6: “Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures. Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, “The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously”? But He gives more grace. Therefore, He says: “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”*

Therefore, we can never trust our own feelings. Feelings are indicators that we need to run them through the God filter right away. If not, our feelings will trickle through the pride filter and then feelings become stupid. Feelings can be destructive. Remember what Scripture said? *“…bringing every thought (this also means feelings) into captivity to the obedience of Christ…”* **Do you notice that they will never be taken to the Holy Spirit until we take them captive?**

**Message LifePoint**: You think that you have got this? Let’s look at a few things and see if they resonate…

Don’t like your car. At least you have one. Don’t like your house. At least you have one. Don’t like your job. Go get another one. At least you can make a living. Cannot get a better paying one? Pride says money is more important than doing what you love. Don’t get along with my spouse or children; I guarantee pride has a lot to do with it. I don’t like change. Your pride will say that all day long, but change will come with or without you and your pride.

I will get right with God later – pride. I will go to church soon – pride.

I will serve in church when I have this or that or more time or whatever. – Pride. When you shouldn’t watch that or look at that, but you do.

The Spirit says, “No”, but your pride says “Yes.” Taking things out on your spouse or kids instead of taking them to God…pride caused that. Not forgiving – pride… Not loving – pride… Not helping – pride.

Pride wants and expects us to have accolades or degrees and praise from people. Praise wants us to have titles. Jesus did not die for titles or degrees or trophies. He died for your salvation. He does not want any of that – He wants the broken, hurting and beat down you – the humble you. Pride allows people to become slaves to the titles, to the things, to the praise, to the trophies, etc.…but that is not our purpose. Our purpose is to pull people from their graves before the die in them.

*Luke 14:11: “For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”* Do not let pride steal your joy, steal your peace, or steal your life and walk with Christ any longer! Humble yourselves before God right now and live the way you were meant to. For Him. Don’t allow your pride to keep you from doing the right things any longer. Take every thought, word and action through the God filter and it will be blessed.