

# Abide in Me

**John 15:4**  
*Bible studies for disciples  
who make disciples*



Volume 8 - Number 20

The Week of March 12, 2023

*Get Wisdom*  
**A Fool's Poison**

Proverbs 6:16-19; 16:18-19; 26:12

Welcome to week 10 in our series from Proverbs. It is impossible to be wise while manifesting pride. The two ways are mutually exclusive. The problem is we find it difficult to detect pride in ourselves even while we are shot through with it. Our aim in this study is to recognize pride for what it is and how to seek freedom from it by taking the path of humility.

## READ SEVERAL KEY TEXTS FROM PROVERBS ABOUT PRIDE

- Proverbs 6:16-19 - "There are six things that the LORD hates, seven that are an abomination to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers."
  - Double underline *haughty eyes*.
  - Circle the words *the Lord hates* and *an abomination*.
- Proverbs 16:18-19 - "Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. It is better to be of a lowly spirit with the poor than to divide the spoil with the proud."
  - Underline *pride* and *haughty spirit*.
  - Double underline *destruction* and *a fall*.
  - Circle *goes before* in verse 18.
- 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."
  - What does it mean to be wise in his own eyes?
  - Read this verse in the Amplified Version: "Do you see a man [who is unteachable and] wise in his own eyes and full of self-conceit? There is more hope for a fool than for him."
  - Double underline *unteachable*.

*Ponder these questions before you meet with your Growth Group*

- What one word would you use to describe the *tone* of these passages?

- What main idea stands out to you from reading these passages?
- Try to summarize the theme of these passages. If you were going to describe these verses, you might say, “This text is about \_\_\_\_\_.”

## **EXPLORING THE DANGER OF PRIDE AND THE WAY OF HUMILITY THROUGH DISCUSSION**

1. Describe selfish pride and what a conceited person looks and sounds like.
2. Read Proverbs 16:5. Why is selfish pride so offensive to God?
3. In what ways does our pride affect the people around us and the relationships we have?
4. When are you most vulnerable to allow pride to creep into your conversations and talk too much about yourself?
5. It may seem counterintuitive, but how is false humility just another form of selfish pride?
6. Describe genuine humility and what a truly humble person looks and sounds like.
7. What is so attractive about humility?

8. Read the following Proverbs on humility:

- Proverbs 3:34, we read, “Toward the scorners he is scornful, but to the humble he gives favor.”
  - Proverbs 29:23 - “A man’s pride will bring him low, but a humble spirit will obtain honor.”
  - Proverbs 11:2 - “When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with the humble is wisdom.”
  - Proverbs 22:4 - “The reward for humility and fear of the Lord is riches and honor and life.”
- List the benefits promised to those who walk in humility:
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- How can we receive these promises without succumbing to either a mere transactional spirituality or a prosperity message?

9. What does it mean to be teachable? Why is it an indication of true humility?

10. Review the chart below comparing the way of pride and the way of humility. How does this clarify the differences for you? What steps will you take this week to continue to walk in humility?

## PRIDE VS. HUMILITY

Pride loves to talk, reveling in every self-exalting form of self-expression.	Humility asks questions and loves dialogue.
Pride is quite content with what it already knows.	Humility has never found someone it couldn't learn something from.
Pride assumes I already understand everything I need to.	Humility assumes there is always more to learn about everything.
Pride assumes I don't need help.	Humility assumes I need others.
Pride sinfully judges others by assuming they will respond negatively or unhelpfully if I am open.	Humility would rather be open and vulnerable than closed and independent.
Pride uses conversation as broadcast time.	Humility uses conversation with a spouse to explore new worlds.
Pride doesn't need a spouse, just an audience.	Humility puts energy and effort into listening.
Pride denies what the gospel reveals about our seriously sinful condition (Prov 10:19; Gal 5:17).	Humility treats a spouse as a fellow traveler on the road to biblical wisdom.
	Humility that leads to intimacy takes an interest in one's spouse as a gift from God.
	Humility believes what the gospel says about our desperate need for God and his grace— <i>after</i> we're saved as well as before.

