

How to Be a Wise Guy

Studies in Proverbs

Acting Medium

Introduction to "The Wisdom of Humility" from Proverbs

Chuck Swindoll relates a story about three kids who built a clubhouse. When they finished they came up with three rules for their club: 1. Nobody act big. 2. Nobody act small. 3. Everybody act medium. This is the essence of this week's study of the wisdom of humility—refusing to act in pride or self-loathing, but acting instead in true humility. True humility is acting in accordance with an honest appraisal of oneself, and seeking the good of others above our own. There is much said in Proverbs about the opposite of humility, which is pride. Proud people are described as haughty, arrogant and scoffers, three terms which point to self-absorption and the devaluation of others. Those who are proud

always finds their way into the spotlight, and are far more interested in what others think about them, rather than in the truth. As a result the proud have more "style" than substance, and are artificially "puffed up" over their gifts, intellect and integrity. Sadly, there are many damages which can be attributed to pride. On a personal level, the self-deception of pride causes us to stumble, and its stubbornness leads us to sudden brokenness. Furthermore, proud people instigate conflict, disparage others, and devour those who are weak, causing their personal relationships to be in shambles. Also, because God hates human pride, His



Using God's Wisdom to Make Life Work

relationship with those who are proud is strained. To overcome this pride and become humble we must first begin to value humility. This will happen as we recognize the damages of pride and the blessings on humility. Then, we must express humility by valuing others above ourselves, and by acknowledging God's rightful place above all. Then, we will be able to "act medium".

The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- Worship—You were planned for God's pleasure
- Fellowship—You were formed for God's family
- Discipleship—You were created to become like Christ
- Ministry—You were shaped for serving God
- Evangelism—You were made for a mission

Daily Questions for The Wisdom of Humility

(For answers to questions attend an ABF or go to [www.celebrationnet.com/resources/leader resources](http://www.celebrationnet.com/resources/leader%20resources))

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| 1. Read 21:24. What names are equated with pride, and what do all of these have in common? | |
| 2. Look at 12:9 and 25:27. What does a proud person do for themselves? Why is the bad? | |
| 3. One root meaning of pride is "puffed up" or "swollen". Using 25:14, 26:12 and 28:26 what are some areas in which prideful people can falsely inflate themselves? | |

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“The Wisdom of Humility” Study Questions (cont)

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| 4. From 11:2, 16:18, 21:4 and 29:1, how does pride hurt us personally? | |
| 5. Looking at 28:25 and 30:11-14, what does pride do to our personal relationships? What has been your own experience? | |
| 6. Using 15:25 and 16:5 what is God’s evaluation of pride and how does He respond to it? Why do you think God deals with pride so harshly? | |
| 7. As you consider 16:19 and 22:4, what attitude should we have about being humble? Why do you think rewards come to one who is humble? | |
| 8. Think about these verses: 20:9, 25:27, 27:21, and 28:13. What should we always remember about ourselves? How does this help us develop humility? | |
| 9. Read 15:33. What does the “fear of the Lord” mean in this verse, and how does this contribute to humility? Why is such humility necessary for true honor (see 18:12)? | |
| 10. From 25:6-7, 29:13, and 30:29-31, what should we recognize about everyone (29:13), and how should this lead to humility as we relate to others? | |
| 11. After studying humility and pride this week, how would you define each, and which would describe you best? What steps from the study will you take to become more humble? | |

Scripture to Remember

“Humility and the fear of the Lord bring wealth and honor and life.”

Proverbs 22:4 (NIV)

Celebration Fellowship

*Reaching—
Restoring—Raising Up*

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Life Group Questions—The Bridge

(Using questions based on today’s message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)

1. As a kid, how did you go about finding the Easter eggs—did you go for the most, the best, or the most well-hidden? Where do you hide eggs for your kids?
2. When you think of the crucifixion/resurrection story, what is the best personal “find” (discovery) you have made about it (what has come to mean the most to you)?
3. Which is more important to you—the fact that Jesus died for you, or that He rose again for you? Why?
4. Discuss together how can you make the facts of Easter meaningful to you on a daily basis?
5. Talk about why it is difficult for us to talk about Jesus’ crucifixion and resurrection with others. How can we begin to engage others in this conversation?
6. Discuss anything else important to you from the Sunday service if you have time.