

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. *Enjoy discovering more about Him!*

## "PRIDE, HUMILITY, AND TEACHABILITY" | PROVERBS | PASTOR BRIAN BELL

### WARM-UP QUESTION:

- What movie, tv show or book comes to mind with the phrase "proud person"?

### *"Pride Always Precedes a Fall, But Humility Welcomes Wisdom" Proverbs 16: 18, Proverbs 11:2*

Pride leads to the mistake of feeling self-sufficient while humility leads to receiving feedback and help.

- Why is it hard to recognize when you're struggling with pride?
- How is thinking badly of yourself different than being humble?

### *"Correction is a Gift and Humility is Teachability" Proverbs 18: 12, Proverbs 9:9, Proverbs 12:1, Proverbs 15: 31-32*

Proud people look badly on correction, but humble people are open to learning and like to be taught.

- What are ways people avoid and resist correction?
- How can people welcome correction and hard conversations?

### *"God Resists the Proud" James 4:6, 1 Peter 5:5*

Pride damages relationship with God, as seen in fall of Satan. Proud people don't think they need a Savior.

- What are ways people show they still have pride and aren't allowing God to lead them?

### *"Christ Connection: The Humble King" Philippians 2*

Jesus took the form of the servant and was obedient in going to the cross. The Father exalted Him for His humility.

- How can people show humility and serve like Christ?
- If God exalted Christ for His humility, what does that mean for humble Christ-followers?

### REFLECTION AND APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

Pride puts people in opposition to God, damages relationships, and makes one foolish. Humility leads to wisdom and allows one to receive God's grace, trusting the God's ways are best. Jesus demonstrates this by humbly dying on the cross.

- How well have you handled being corrected lately?
- Who can correct you without losing access to you?
- Confess to God for your pride and ask Him to make you humble toward Him and others.

## 7 - Pride, Humility, and Teachability

### I. Announce:

- A. Welcome to those watching online **2nd**.
- B. Slide1-4 AP: Fresh Faith. At Risk. FHC. CMCA.
- C. Slide5a Prayer: Lord, please **convict** us, without *crushing* us, **as you do so well!**

### II. Slide5b Intro: 7 - Pride, Humility, and Teachability

- A. Big Idea: **Pride** isolates; **humility** positions us **for grace**.
- B. **Pride**: The Hardest Sin to See.
  1. Pride is the one sin everyone else can see - except the person who has it.
  2. **If I'm greedy**, I might know it. **If I'm angry**, I feel it. **But if I'm proud?**  
***Pride convinces me I'm right.*** [that's why Proverbs talks about it so much].

### III. Slide6a 1 PRIDE ALWAYS PRECEDES A FALL

- A. Proverbs 16:18 ***Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.***
- B. Pride **isn't** confidence. Pride **is self-exaltation**. Pride **is self-trust** detached from God. [we thus can define **pride** as, *The illusion of self-sufficiency*].
  1. "I don't need advice." "I already know." "I've got this."
- C. Pride doesn't fall *suddenly* - **it usually drifts slowly**.
- D. Slide6b Illustration: The Tallest Tree. The tallest trees are actually the most vulnerable in a storm. When wind hits: *Short trees bend and tall rigid trees snap*.
  1. **Pride** makes us rigid - **Humility** makes us *flexible*.
  2. Storms don't create the weakness - they reveal it.

### IV. Slide7a 2 HUMILITY WELCOMES WISDOM

- A. Proverbs 11:2 *When **pride** comes, then comes disgrace, but with the **humble** is wisdom.* [Humility is Pride's *necessary antidote*]

B. **Pride:** Deflects. Blames. Interrupts. Justifies.

C. **Humility:** Listens. Asks questions. Receives feedback. Admits weakness.

1. Humility isn't thinking *less of yourself* - it's thinking of *yourself less*. *(better still)*
2. **Slide7b** Humility is not thinking *less of yourself* - **nor** thinking of yourself less - **it's** thinking of yourself **rightly** before a **holy God**.

D. When was the last time you said the words, “**You’re right**”?

E. **If you’ve ever met a humble person**, you wouldn’t have thought that they were **humble**, you would have walk away amazed how much they asked good questions of you, cared about you.

## V. **Slide8a 3 CORRECTION IS A GIFT**

A. Proverbs 18:12 *Before destruction a man’s heart is **haughty**, but **humility** comes before honor.* (related terms in proverbs: *arrogance, haughtiness, and insolence*)

B. What’s the difference between **Pride** and being **haughty**?

1. In simple terms: **Pride** is the inner attitude. **Haughtiness** is pride that shows itself outwardly.
2. **Pride** means: *arrogance, self-exaltation, having an inflated view of oneself*. It is the belief that ***I am self-sufficient and superior***. **And, It lives in the heart.** ;(
3. **Haughty** or having **Haughty eyes** means: *an elevated posture. looking down on others. visible arrogance*. **So haughtiness is pride with a face on it.** [it shows up as: *condescension. dismissiveness. it’s superiority in tone*]
  - a) People see it in: **our facial expression, tone, posture, how we treats others.**
  - b) **Slide8b** That’s why Proverbs says in the famous **7 cardinal sins/deadly sins** in 6:16-19 *There are **six** things that the LORD hates, **seven** that are an abomination to him: 17 **haughty eyes**, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, 18 a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to*

*run to evil, 19 a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers.*

(1) **Haughty eyes** is **pride** that has become **relationally damaging**.

c) Maybe the best way to remember it, “**Pride** is the root in the heart. **Haughtiness** is the fruit on the branches.”

C. Back to **Correction is a Gift**. **Correction** feels painful - but it's **protective**.

1. The people who correct you *care about your future*.

2. **Like a coach**: A coach who says: “*Your footwork is off.*” “*Your timing is wrong.*” Is **not** insulting them. He's protecting their potential.

a) In this case **correction** is **not rejection** - it's **investment**.

3. **Wisdom**: Welcomes hard conversations. Doesn't punish honesty. Sees rebuke as refinement.

4. **Correction** is **God's mercy** wearing *a human voice*.

5. *Correction is also God's smoke alarm for our lives.*

## VI. Slide9a **4 HUMILITY IS TEACHABILITY**

A. **Illustration**: Some **bamboo tree species** spend **5 years** growing underground *before* anything appears above the surface. **Then** in **1 year** it grows **60–80 feet**.

1. The **growth** was happening the whole time, you just couldn't see it.

2. **Humility grows roots** before **God** grows **influence**.

B. 1 of the ways **Humility** is *made visible* is through **Teachability**. Or we can say teachability is one of the clearest signs of humility.

1. **Humble** people **stay open**. They **stay curious**. They **stay correctable**.

C. Proverbs repeatedly links **wisdom** with **teachability**.

D. **Slide9b Proverbs Examples**

1. Proverbs 9:9 *Instruct the wise and they will be wiser still.*

2. Proverbs 12:1 *Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but whoever hates correction is stupid.*
3. Proverbs 15:31–32 *Whoever heeds life-giving correction will be at home among the wise.*
- a) Summed up: *Wisdom grows where teachability lives.*
- b) *Slide9c So* I thought, if *Pride* was the root and *haughtiness* it's fruit. *Then here: Humility is the root system of the bamboo, teachability is the culm kalm/stalk, and wisdom is it's fruit.* [bamboo typically flowers and produces fruit only once in its life cycle, (which can last from 40 to 100 yrs), depending on the species. The fruit produced is often referred to as bamboo rice and it is considered a significant food source for people and rodents]

### E. *Slide9d Pride Resists Teaching*

F. *Pride says:* “I already know.” “You don’t understand.” “That doesn’t apply to me.”

G. *Humility says:* “Help me see what I’m missing.” “Tell me more.” “I may be wrong.”

1. The **proud** defend their position. The **humble** improve their position.
2. *How do you know if you're proud? Pride is* while you're listening to this sermon, you're thinking of **someone else** you wish was listening to this sermon ;)

### H. *Teachability Is A Lifelong Posture*

I. Older adults, *You don't age out of teachability.*

J. *Wisdom keeps learning:* from **Scripture**, from **mentors**, from **spouses**, even from **younger people**. (I don't care if they're **5 years old**: be quiet, listen. You don't always have to be the teacher, or the fact guy!) Just acknowledge they said! That's awesome. You're really smart.

K. *The moment you stop learning, you stop growing.* [Proverbs 18:15 NLT *Intelligent people are always ready to learn. Their ears are open for knowledge*] *Are yours?*

### L. *Questions That Reveal Teachability*

M. **Ask:** When was the last time you **changed your mind**? **Who** can challenge you without losing access to you? Do people **feel safe** correcting you? (these questions quietly expose pride).

### N. **Tie It Back to Jesus**

O. Jesus modeled teachability through submission to the Father. Luke 2:52 *Jesus grew in wisdom...* [even the Son lived in humble dependence].

1. The most mature person who ever lived was also the most teachable.
  - a) **Pride** assumes it **has arrived**. **Humility** knows it still has *somewhere to grow*.

## VII. Slide 10a **5 GOD RESISTS THE PROUD**

A. Even though not in your Proverbs texts, this is a **biblical anchor** from ...

1. James 4:6 *God opposes the **proud** but gives grace to the **humble**.*
2. 1 Peter 5:5b *Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the **proud** but gives grace to the **humble**”.*

- a) God doesn't just *dislike* pride - **He opposes it!** **Why?** Because pride says: *I don't need You. I'm in control.*

B. **But:** God *resists pride* - but *releases grace* to the humble. That's the turning point.

C. **Illustration:** Pushing Against the Current. Swimming upstream requires enormous effort. *Pride puts you against the current of God's grace. **Humility** moves with it.*

### D. Slide 10b **Is Pride really that bad?**

E. **Pride** is the most *dangerous* sins of the Bible, **not because** it looks ugly on the outside, **but because it quietly pushes God out of the heart while everything still looks spiritual.**

1. That means, it is actually possible to *pray, worship, fast, serve in church, post scriptures*, and still be *living in a posture* that **God Himself** is **resisting**.

F. **The First Fall Was Pride.** The very first fall in the universe didn't happen **on earth**. It happened **in heaven**.

1. Before there was a **serpent** in a garden, there was **an angel** in **glory**.

2. Scripture tells us that Lucifer was created magnificent.

3. Ezekiel describes him as: full of beauty, full of wisdom, near the throne of God.

a) But something began to grow inside him. Not *rebellion* at first. **Pride**.

4. Isaiah describes it this way: *You said in your heart, I will ascend to heaven, I will raise my throne, I will make myself like the Most High.*

G. The first sin in the universe wasn't theft. It wasn't violence. It wasn't immorality. *It was pride.*

1. Lucifer wanted the throne - instead of The One on the throne.

2. And the result - *Pride lifted him up and pride cast him down.*

a) Slide10c C.S.Lewis, *Pride is the sin that made the devil the devil.* Mere Christianity

H. Every time pride grows in our hearts, we're repeating the oldest mistake in the universe.

1. And every time we *humble ourselves*, we walk the path of Christ instead.

## VIII.Slide11a 6 CHRIST CONNECTION: THE HUMBLE KING

A. Philippians 2 is perfect: *He emptied Himself. Took the form of a servant. Became obedient to death. Therefore God exalted Him.*

B. The world says exalt yourself and you'll rise. Jesus humbled Himself - and was **lifted** by the Father.

1. Proverbs 22:4 *The reward for humility and fear of the Lord is riches and honor and life.* [Jesus embodies that pattern]

C. Humility is not *weakness* - it's **trust**.

D. *Illustration: In ancient culture: we know the lowest servant washed feet. But Jesus - the King - knelt down!*

1. The hands that shaped the universe **picked up a towel.**

E. **Illustration: The Inverted Kingdom.** The world's ladder (climb higher). **Jesus' ladder** (go lower - **and** the Father *lifts you*).

## IX. SlideX 7 APPLICATION - PRACTICE - CLOSE

A. **Application:**

B. **Pride** shows up in: **Marriage** (“I’m not apologizing first.”). **Parenting** (“I know best.”). **Leadership** (“I don’t need input.”). **Faith** (“I’ve matured beyond correction.”).

C. **Ask:** Who can correct you without losing access to you? Do people feel safe disagreeing with you?

D. **Practice:** *homework!*

E. **Receive correction** this week *without defensiveness*.

F. **When corrected:** Don’t interrupt. - **Don’t explain immediately.** - Say, “Thank you.”  
- **Pray** before responding.

G. **Close:**

H. *Christ must increase and I must decrease.* This isn’t just a verse to memorize, **but a lifestyle to live.**

I. **Prayer:** Let’s Pray, dangerous prayers! - **Lord**, please expose, reveal, **and** confront *our sin of pride*. Shine a light in those dark areas of our hearts, honestly that *we would rather keep in darkness*. - **Lord**, Keep us small in our own eyes **and** big in our **dependence** on **You**.

J. Keywords: Pride, humility, teachability.