

Sermon Questions – PRIDE

John 3:22-30

1. Have you ever been so proud and confident in yourself, only to be burned by the real and honest truth? Share your experience and the feelings that you encountered through this situation.
2. Define pride in your own words. Do you consider pride to be a motivator to become the best version of yourself?
3. Sinful pride is a total preoccupation with one's self in relation to how we measure up. In his book, *Mere Christianity*, C.S. Lewis says, "'Pride gets no pleasure out of having something, only out of having more of it than the next man... It is the comparison that makes you proud: the pleasure of being above the rest.'" In what situations are you most likely to compare yourself to others?
4. Read John 3:22-30. What does "He must become greater, I must become less" mean to you?
5. Is there a area in your life where you insist on going your own way? What keeps you from walking in humble obedience to the Lord, using your God-given gifts and abilities to better His kingdom?
6. What set of circumstances are you facing that you now see your own pride as a part of the problem? How could you begin to demonstrate humility towards the others involved?
7. John Wesley, our founding father of Methodism, knew the struggle of pride-as-a-vice and the value in the virtue of humility. Knowing the temptation to stray from our submission to God's will, Wesley wrote his Covenant Prayer and recited it daily. Recite this now. Are there phrases in this prayer that raise feelings of fear in you? Which phrases make you feel vulnerable?

The Wesley Covenant Prayer

I am no longer my own, but yours.

Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will;

put me to doing, put me to suffering;

let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you,

exalted for you, or brought low for you;

let me be full,

let me be empty,

let me have all things,

let me have nothing:

I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things

to your pleasure and disposal.

And now, glorious and blessed God,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

you are mine and I am yours. So be it.

And the covenant now made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven.

Amen.