

# TALKINGPOINTS WALKINGPOINTS



2019.9.1

**Talk** together about the glory of God's kingdom. *—Psalm 145:11*  
Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. *—Joshua 22:5*

## Questions for Reflection and Discussion

- Our culture **urges** us to develop personal pride and to have a good self-esteem. Think of the proudest person you know personally. What is it like being around him/her?  
  
Since pride is lethal to human flourishing and to societal cohesion, **why** do you think it is exalted? What light does Psalm 12 shed on this subject?  
  
Can you think of **any** Bible passages which teach pride as a virtue? List any you can think of.  
  
What do the following passages from Proverbs teach about God's reaction to human pride? .  
Proverbs 6:16-19      Proverbs 13:10      Proverbs 16:18-19      Proverbs 29:23
- In the 2012 presidential election, "**You didn't build that!**" became a rallying point for **both** sides. Read **Daniel 4:28-37** and list all of the evidences of pride that you see in v. 28-30.  
  
What happened in v. 31-32? How does God feel about pride?  
  
On a lesser scale, what have **you** built "**by your own power and for the glory of your majesty**" (v. 30)?  
  
**How** have you "raised your eyes toward heaven and blessed, praised, and honored the Most High" (v. 34)? Be specific and concrete.
- Read 1 Corinthians 4:7. There are three questions in this passage—what are they?  
1. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
  
And, what are **your** answers to each question?  
1. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_ (If you need more space than this, you're out of touch with reality!)  
3. \_\_\_\_\_

## Application-Challenge

In everything you do, humble yourself before God and each other.

## Sermon Summary      Key Text: 1 Peter 5:5-7

God has designed the church to be both a place of refuge and a place of equipping. God equips us to share our faith and live a distinct Christian lifestyle, while representing Him in how we love people. However, not everyone will like what they see, because our Christian world view and the values that flow from it are diametrically opposed to the prevailing secular world view, which brings God's people into conflict with the world. In fact, the more your values mirror Biblical values the greater cultural pushback you will receive.

However, God calls us to influence a world that is not terribly fond of Christ-following Christians because so much of what we believe challenges its beliefs. In order to best reach the world, the church must be united on two fronts: **first**, in its mission to make disciples throughout the world, of all nations (Matthew 28:18-20); and **second**, in its commitment to live in harmony with one another (1 Peter 3:8-9). The church should be characterized by its unity because we share a common vision, purpose and value system. The point I made last week is that the church will not flourish if its leaders don't shepherd their flock, but neither will the church flourish if the flock does not follow its shepherd. This latter point is the one we are focusing on today.

Earlier in his letter, Peter encouraged believers to be subject to the governing authorities (1 Peter 2:13-17); he told slaves to submit to their masters (1 Peter 2:18-25); and he told wives to submit to their husbands (1 Peter 3:1-7). In our passage today, he commands younger members of the church to submit to their pastors. I think Peter singled out younger people here because he knew that they were most likely to be independently minded and push back against church leaders. Although the younger generation tends to think they know more than their elders, that doesn't mean that they don't have something to contribute. Church leaders would be foolish to not listen to their ideas and concerns—they are the future of the church, and young people should be given responsibility in the church (commensurate to their experience and spiritual maturity).

Humble leaders listen to those who are seeking to lead. We all need to be humble enough to know that we don't know everything. We need to be humble enough to ask for help. We need to be humble enough to submit to those whom God has placed in authority over us. So, in verse 5, Peter tells the younger members of the church to submit to their elders. This simply implies a general willingness to support the elder's decisions, but he quickly follows that by saying that all of us should "clothe ourselves with humility." It is this kind of humility that fosters trust and cooperation in the church. Everyone has a role to play.

When everyone seeks to use their gifts and talents for God's glory, we advance the kingdom. But humility is the key to making all of that work. Humility allows us to work together in unity. It allows us to extend grace and forgiveness to one another. Humility is the key to experiencing Biblical Community. Peter juxtaposes this idea of humility with the consequence of pride (1 Peter 5:5). Pride wants to exalt itself to godlike status. It wants to answer to no one but itself. But God hates pride, and here Peter tells us that God actively opposes proud people. The key to defeating pride in your life is to clothe yourself with humility, and humility is simply thinking of yourself less and submitting to the Lord. Submission is really an act of faith. By submitting to God, we are trusting Him to provide for us and bring about His divine purposes for our lives.

When all shepherds and sheep humble ourselves before God and one another, the church is a beautiful representation of the kingdom. It is both a loving, supporting spiritual family and a strategic outpost for outreach and ministry in the world.



*Do you need help developing humility?*  
Let a biblical counsel help you!  
Write to: [counseling@tcc.org](mailto:counseling@tcc.org)

# WHO SAYS that?!

Getting to the **Heart** of Communication

**Interactive Workshop Coming Soon!**

- Experience personal growth.
- Gain skill in discipling others.
- **Registration Now Open!**

**Register Now!**

- Who hasn't been hurt by words?
- Who hasn't regretted saying something?
- Who hasn't had to referee an argument?
- Who hasn't wondered what to say to a loved one?

"Talk" seems so normal, so ordinary, so harmless. Yet there are few things we do that are more important. And underneath it all is a struggle that Jesus says begins in our hearts. This interactive workshop will provide you with rich biblical perspectives on our communication struggles. You'll learn practical strategies for personal growth and change, and wisdom for helping those you love.

- **Saturday, September 28, 9am—noon**
- **Triangle Community Church** (4216 Kildaire Farm Road, Apex)
- High school students also welcome
- Tickets just \$10 Free childcare available!
- Go to: **tcc.org** Search: **workshop**



## Digging Deeper in Your Daily Quiet Time

**"Five Question Bible Study"** (see page to the left) is a simple way to study any passage. Let's use it to study the most humble man who ever walked this planet...

**Monday**— Matthew 11:28-30

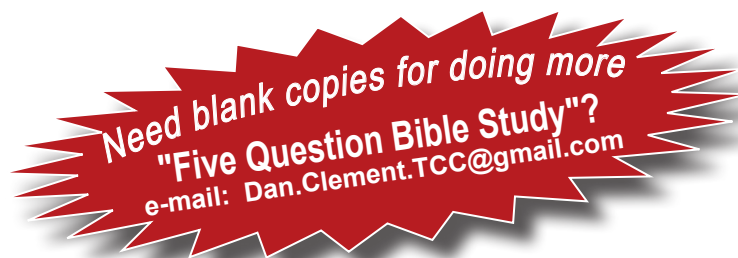
**Tuesday**— Matthew 9:35-38

**Wednesday**— Philippians 2:5-11

**Thursday**— Philippians 2:1-5

**Friday**— Luke 23:13-24, 33-34

**Saturday**— ***In preparation for worshipping your risen Lord tomorrow with your church family,*** study 1 Peter 5:8-11.



Bible Text: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



What idea particularly strikes me from this text? [Note in which verse(s) it is found.]



What question does this text raise in my mind—and how would **this text** answer it?



What about Jesus Christ—his character and/or his redemption—relates to this text?



What action must I take as a result of this text? Be concrete and specific.



With whom will I share what I learned from this text? [and what was their response?]

## Pride versus Humility Checklist

Nancy Leigh DeMoss

**Instructions:** For *each couplet*, mark the statement which better describes you.

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- Proud people focus on the failures of others.  
 Humble people are overwhelmed with a sense of their own spiritual need.
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- Proud people have a critical, fault-finding spirit;  
they look at everyone else's faults with a microscope but their own with a telescope.  
 Humble people are compassionate;  
they forgive much because they know how much they have been forgiven.
- 
- Proud people are self-righteous; they look down on others.  
 Humble people esteem all others better than themselves.
- 
- Proud people have an independent, self-sufficient spirit.  
 Humble people have a dependent spirit; they recognize their need for others.
- 
- Proud people have to prove that they are right.  
 Humble people are willing to yield the right to be right.
- 
- Proud people claim rights; they have a demanding spirit.  
 Humble people yield their rights; they have a meek spirit.
- 
- Proud people are self-protective of their time, their rights, and their reputation.  
 Humble people are self-denying.
- 
- Proud people desire to be served.  
 Humble people are motivated to serve others.
- 
- Proud people desire to be a success.  
 Humble people are motivated to be faithful and to make others a success.
- 
- Proud people desire self-advancement.  
 Humble people desire to promote others.
- 
- Proud people have a drive to be recognized and appreciated.  
 Humble people have a sense of their own unworthiness;  
they are thrilled that God would use them at all.
- 
- Proud people are wounded when others are promoted and they are overlooked.  
 Humble people are eager for others to get the credit; they rejoice when others are lifted up.
- 
- Proud people have a subconscious feeling, "This ministry/church is privileged  
to have me and my gifts"; they think of what they can do for God.  
 Humble people's heart attitude is, "I don't deserve to have a part in any ministry"; they know  
that they have nothing to offer God except the life of Jesus flowing through their broken lives.
- 
- Proud people feel confident in how much they know.  
 Humble people are humbled by how very much they have to learn.
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- Proud people are self-conscious.  
 Humble people are not concerned with self at all.

- Proud people keep others at arms' length.
- Humble people are willing to risk getting close to others and to take risks of loving intimately.

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- Proud people are quick to blame others.
- Humble people accept personal responsibility and can see where they are wrong in a situation.

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- Proud people are unapproachable or defensive when criticized.
- Humble people receive criticism with a humble, open spirit.

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- Proud people are concerned with being respectable, with what others think; they work to protect their own image and reputation.
- Humble people are concerned with being real; what matters to them is not what others think but what God knows; they are willing to die to their own reputation.

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- Proud people find it difficult to share their spiritual need with others.
- Humble people are willing to be open and transparent with others as God directs.

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- Proud people want to be sure that no one finds out when they have sinned; their instinct is to cover up.
- Humble people, once broken, don't care who knows or who finds out; they are willing to be exposed because they have nothing to lose.

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- Proud people have a hard time saying, "I was wrong; will you please forgive me?"
- Humble people are quick to admit failure and to seek forgiveness when necessary.

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- Proud people tend to deal in generalities when confessing sin.
- Humble people are able to acknowledge specifics when confessing their sin.

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- Proud people are concerned about the consequences of their sin.
- Humble people are grieved over the cause, the root of their sin.

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- Proud people are remorseful over their sin, sorry that they got found out or caught.
- Humble people are truly, genuinely repentant over their sin, evidenced in the fact that they forsake that sin.

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- Proud people wait for the other to come and ask forgiveness when there is a misunderstanding or conflict in a relationship.
- Humble people take the initiative to be reconciled when there is misunderstanding or conflict in relationships; they race to the cross; they see if they can get there first, no matter how wrong the other may have been.

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- Proud people compare themselves with others and feel worthy of honor.
- Humble people compare themselves to the holiness of God and feel a desperate need for His mercy.

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- Proud people are blind to their true heart condition.
- Humble people walk in the light.

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- Proud people don't think they have anything to repent of.
- Humble people realize they have need of a continual heart attitude of repentance.

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- Proud people don't think they need revival, but they are sure that everyone else does.
- Humble people continually sense their need for a fresh encounter with God and for a fresh filling of His Spirit.