



Spiritual Pride

Sunday, September 16, 2018

Dave Michel

Stepping Stones Community Church

Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.

Proverbs 16:18 NLT

1. Pride is a problem

- We get the problem with arrogance
- Pride is focus on self, not God or others

⁶ “God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble...”

¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

James 4:6, 10

2. When we are full of ourselves, there is no room for God

⁹ To some who were confident of their own righteousness, and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable:

¹⁰ “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’

¹³ “But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’ ¹⁴ “I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.” **Luke 18:9-14 NLT**

In his pride the wicked man does not seek him; in all his thoughts there is no room for God.

Psalms 10:4 NLT

3. Jesus shows us a different way

- When we empty ourselves, we are in the perfect position to be filled by God’s grace
- When we empty ourselves, we are in the perfect position to be used by God

*For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. **Romans 12:3 NLT***

³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

Philippians 2:3-4 NLT

Next Steps:

- Re-read Luke 18:9-14 and meditate on who I am in the story
- Make a list of everything great in my life. Then write next to each item how God made it possible
- Ask God to forgive me for my sin, including my pride and recommit to following his will
- _____