

# THE VICE OF PRIDE

*The Christian Teachings of Virtue (Series 4, Part 1, Teaching #25)*

**Instructions:** Watch video, read aloud, underline what stands out to you most, discuss

**Leader Guide...**

See the back page for detailed facilitator instructions.

Pride, the original sin of the fallen angels, is the first of the seven chief vices because all sin is rooted in pride. The simple act of thinking it's okay to sin in even the smallest of matters stems from the vice of pride.

*The vice of pride is a disposition of putting the will of self before the will of God.*

Scripture warns, "No servant can serve two masters. He will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other..." (Luke 16:13). The more you put your will before God's will, the more you become a worshiper of self and a rejector of God. You cannot serve the kingdom of self and the kingdom of God. One must die. One must be dethroned.

Pride makes you self-centered, self-indulgent, convinced you are self-made. It leads you to think you are better than others—know better than others—know better than God Himself. Instead of living the truth that every gift given, every trial endured, every breath and heartbeat is by the grace of God, pride tempts you to believe the lie that it's all by your own self-doing.

Consider this: "Satan disguises submission to himself under the ruse of personal autonomy. He never asks us to become his servants. Never once did the serpent say to Eve, 'I want to be your master.' The shift in commitment is never from Christ to evil; it is always from Christ to self. And instead of His will, self-interest now rules, and what I want reigns. And that is the essence of sin" (Dennis F. Kinlaw).

If you don't guard against pride, it will quietly take root in your soul. It will convince you to dethrone God and place yourself on the seat of highest authority. It will inflate your ego and shrink your dependence. It will cloud your judgment, choke your gratitude, and twist your heart inward until you no longer see God as your source—but only as a backup plan when your strength runs out.

But the truth is—your strength will run out.

That's why the strongest weapons against pride are the virtues of faith and humility. Faith reminds you that God is your source. Humility reminds you that you are not. Faith trusts in God's strength; humility confesses your weakness. Pride says, "I deserve." Humility says, "I've been given." Pridefulness exalts self. Faithfulness exalts God. Together, they protect your soul from the tyranny of self.

It is said, "It was pride that changed angels into devils; it is humility that makes men as angels" (St. Augustine). For the soul ruled by pride becomes disordered—curved in upon itself. And the more you feed it, the more it grows, until it suffocates your dependence on grace. But the faithful soul that humbles itself before God is like a vessel emptied and made ready to receive.

*(continues on next page...)*

## 7 Chief Vices

Pride

Envy

Anger

Sloth

Greed

Gluttony

Lust



**Watch Video:** Scan the QR code to access the video for this teaching as well as additional resources such as related Scripture, quotes, and more.

Or, visit [horseandchariot.com/the-vice-of-pride](https://horseandchariot.com/the-vice-of-pride)

We all battle the swelling of pride. Stay alert. Don't give in to it. Pride can slip in through the smallest cracks—through praise, success, comparison, even false humility. When recognized, return the glory to God by whispering to yourself, “God is everything, and I am nothing without Him.”

So resist pride. Crucify it daily. Do not let it take root in your thoughts, your decisions, or your heart. Fight pride with faith and humility—for those in heaven are the humble, and those in hell, the proud.

Let Christ be enthroned where pride once reigned. Bow low before the throne of God, and you will be lifted high—not by your own hand, but by His.

Pride is the root from which all sin grows. It is the quiet dethroning of God and the enthroning of self. It whispers, “My will be done,” and slowly turns the soul inward until dependence on grace is replaced with confidence in self. The battle against pride is daily—and it is won through faith and humility.

**1. Pride dethrones God.** It places self at the center. → Where in your life are you subtly insisting on your will over God’s?

**2. Pride disguises itself.** It hides beneath control, comparison, or the need to be right. → What form does pride most often take in you?

**3. Pride resists correction.** It refuses to bend or be taught. → How do you respond when confronted or corrected?

**4. Pride forgets grace.** It claims credit for what was given. → Do you regularly return glory to God for your gifts and successes?

**5. Humility restores order.** It bows low so Christ may reign. → What would it look like today to deliberately humble yourself before God?

**6. Faith guards the soul.** It remembers that God is the source of all strength. → Are you trusting God fully—or quietly relying on yourself?

## CHARACTERISTICS OF A HUMBLE SOUL

Those who resist pride and cultivate humility exhibit these traits:

**1. Dependence.** They rely on God’s grace, not their own strength.

**2. Teachability.** They welcome correction and grow from it.

**3. Gratitude.** They recognize every gift as given, not earned.

**4. Meekness.** They do not demand to be seen, praised, or preferred.

**5. Surrender.** They seek God’s will above personal preference.

**6. Freedom.** They are no longer enslaved to ego or comparison.

### Signs of Pride Taking Root...

- You feel threatened by others’ success or correction.
- You struggle to forgive or admit fault.
- You crave recognition or feel entitled to praise.
- You resist authority or reject counsel.
- You rely more on your own ability than on prayer.
- You compare yourself constantly—either superior or inferior.
- You treat God as a backup plan rather than your source.

**Think:** Pride curves my soul inward; humility opens it toward God. The more I insist on my will, the smaller my soul becomes. But when I bow low before the Lord, I am lifted by His grace. I am not self-made. Every breath, every strength, every good is from Him. To live rightly, I must dethrone self and enthrone Christ.

**Pray:** Lord, expose the pride within me. Where I cling to control, teach me surrender. Where I crave recognition, teach me hiddenness. Where I resist correction, teach me humility. Remind me that without You I can do nothing. Strip away the illusion of self-sufficiency and root me in faith. May Christ reign in my heart where pride once sought to rule. Amen.

SELF-EVALUATION & ACTION STEP																					
<p><b>Of the areas you underlined throughout this teaching, which stood out to you most and why?</b> (Reflect, write down, discuss)</p>																					
<p><b>Rate yourself from 1-10</b> 1 = Pride often governs my thoughts and decisions 10 = I consistently live in humility and reliance on grace</p>	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">1</td> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">2</td> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">3</td> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">4</td> <td style="padding: 2px 10px; text-align: center;"><del>5</del></td> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">6</td> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">7</td> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">8</td> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">9</td> <td style="padding: 2px 10px;">10</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4" style="text-align: center;">←</td> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;"><i>(avoid 5)</i></td> <td colspan="4" style="text-align: center;">→</td> </tr> </table>	1	2	3	4	<del>5</del>	6	7	8	9	10	←				<i>(avoid 5)</i>		→			
1	2	3	4	<del>5</del>	6	7	8	9	10												
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<p><b>Why did you give yourself this rating?</b></p>																					
<p><b>Where does pride most often appear in your life—control, comparison, recognition, resistance to correction, or self-reliance?</b></p>																					
<p><b>When was the last time you deliberately humbled yourself before God or another person?</b></p>																					
<p><b>What habit can you practice this week to weaken pride and embrace humility and faith?</b></p>																					
<p><b>Daily Affirmation:</b> Today, I will crucify pride. By God’s grace, I will humble myself, surrender my will, and give all glory to Him—for without Him, I am nothing, and in Him, I have all I need.</p>																					

# FACILITATOR INSTRUCTIONS

## Courageous Facilitator,

Your willingness to step forward and lead is a gift of grace to your community and a brave act of faith. God bless you for answering the call to inspire others to grow in virtue and pursue the character of Christ.

The Holy Spirit thrives in fellowship and community, working powerfully through the connections and shared experiences of small groups. That's why these lesson plans are designed to cultivate genuine relationships, inspire meaningful conversations, and foster a spirit of transformation through shared wisdom and grace.

Facilitating these lessons is both simple and impactful. While many forms of teaching rely on one-way communication, where one person speaks and others listen, true transformation happens through two-way communication. In this format, ideas aren't merely taught—they're explored together. You'll guide, but everyone will share and learn from one another, creating a rich environment where the Holy Spirit can move and grow each mind, heart, and soul.

These lesson plans succeed because they:

- **Encourage connection** in a collaborative small group setting that fosters action and accountability
- **Empower every voice** with opportunities for each participant to share and contribute
- **Inspire growth** through educational, inspirational, and transformational teachings

Your role as a facilitator is to:

- **Follow the instructions and trust the process**—the wheel is already built, you're here to guide it.
- **Honor the schedule** by being punctual and respecting the time of your group.
- **Lead with love** and rely on God's grace to inspire, guide, and uplift everyone in the group.

Your courage to create a space for growth and fellowship will not only bless others but will deepen your own journey of faith and virtue. Together, with God's help, lives will be transformed.

*To God be the glory!*

## FACILITATOR CHECKLIST

### 1. Getting Started (5-10 mins)

- Give everyone a few minutes to join before getting started. Be friendly and greet people as they arrive. Get them talking! Come prepared with some good ice-breaker questions you can ask during this time.
- 3-5 minutes in, do quick introductions for anyone new to the group. What brought them to the group? Spend a moment getting to know them.
- Open with a short prayer (facilitator or volunteer).

### 2. Watch & Read the Teaching (5-10 mins)

- Watch the video of the teaching as a group.
- Have a volunteer read all of page 1. Have others follow along and underline what stands out to them most.

### 3. How it Applies (5-10 mins)

- Have a volunteer read all of page 2. Have others follow along and underline what stands out to them most.

### 4. Reflection & Discussion (20-30 mins)

- Have everyone quietly take 5 minutes to complete the "Self-Evaluation & Action Step" on page 3.
- Then, going around the group, have each person take a minute to share what stood out to them most about the teaching and why.
- If time allows, continue the discussion using the remaining self-evaluation questions as a guide.

### 5. Wrap Up (5 mins)

- Remind everyone to do the daily affirmation until you meet again next time.
- Ask for any prayer requests from the group.
- Close with a short prayer (facilitator or volunteer).