

**I. Read II Corinthians 5:12**

- A. The Apostle Paul begins in verse 12 by explaining that the Corinthians ought to be proud of the ministry to which Paul and his associates are called, and of the work they are doing. In the King James Version, the thought is expressed differently with the phrase “to glory on our behalf.” His point is further illuminated with the contrast to those “who take pride in appearance, and not in heart.” (NAS). What is the difference in the pride which Paul encourages and that to which it is contrasted? (Read Jeremiah 12:1-3).
- B. Would it be wrong to say something like “I am proud of my children!” or “I am proud of my church!”?
- C. When is pride a problem? (Read Isaiah 14:12-14.)
- D. Read James 4:6-7 and comment on how God deals with the wicked sort of pridefulness.

Why do you suppose verse 7 speaks of the devil right after verse 6 explains God’s attitude toward the proud?

- E. Read Luke 18:9-14 and describe the effect of pride versus genuine humility as we approach God.

- F. Read 2 Timothy 3:1-2 and explain how the characteristics listed of people living in a culture racing toward destruction and collapse relate to a wicked pridefulness.
  
- G. Read Proverbs 11:2; 16:18, and 29:23 and discuss the consequences of wicked pridefulness.
  
- H. Read Mark 10:23-25 and explain why Jesus teaches that it is hard for a rich man to be saved.
  
- I. Read Matthew 20:20-28 and discuss what was good and what was bad about the request the mother of James and John made of Jesus.
  
- J. Read Galatians 6:1-3 and explain why true humility is necessary if we expect our brother to receive correction and admonition from us. If we attempt to hold our brother accountable for stumbling into sin and yet believe that we are above or incapable of the same sort of sin, how effective will our efforts be?

Paul's epistles are filled with instances in which he dealt with disciplinary problems, difficult people, attacks from within and without the church. He is not reluctant to name names and identify problems in many of those instances. How would you respond to someone that accused Paul of pridefulness or a judgmental attitude?