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Dr. Rick Mandl  
[rick@eaglerockbaptist.com](mailto:rick@eaglerockbaptist.com)

"Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour."

1 Peter 5:8

### David's Greatest Sin

"Satan rose up against Israel and caused David to take a census of the people of Israel."

1 Chronicles 21:1

"I have sinned against the Lord."

2 Samuel 12:13

"I have sinned greatly by doing this."

1 Chronicles 21:8

### What Is Pride?

An \_\_\_\_\_ belief in my \_\_\_\_\_

"I give each of you this warning: Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us."

Romans 12:3

### Why Is It Such A Big Deal?

- It's \_\_\_\_\_
- It deceives me into believing I can \_\_\_\_\_
- It's the root from which \_\_\_\_\_

### How Can I Defend Against It?

1. \_\_\_\_\_ its \_\_\_\_\_

"For from within, out of a person's heart, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, wickedness, deceit, lustful desires, envy, slander, pride, and foolishness."

Mark 7:21-22

2. Admit that it's a \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_

"If you think you are standing strong, be careful not to fall."

1 Corinthians 10:12

3. Keep my \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_

"Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death - even death on a cross!"

Philippians 2:5-8

### MEMORY VERSE

"God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come close to God, and God will come close to you."

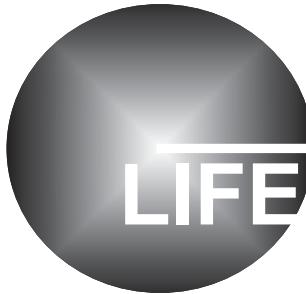
James 4:6-8

### MY NEXT STEP IS TO . . .

- Humble myself by accepting God's free gift of forgiveness and eternal life in Jesus Christ for the first time.
- Ask God to help me to see the presence of pride in myself as easily as I see it in others
- Memorize James 4:6-8
- Commit to attend (as much as possible) each week of "The Devil Made Me Do It" teaching series
- Get the most out of today's message by attending my Life group this week



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# LIFE GROUPS

## Discussion Questions - Week #6

### QUICK REVIEW

Thinking back to the sermon this weekend "The Destroyer," in a sentence or two summarize the main point.

Looking back at your notes, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

### GETTING STARTED

- When it comes to pride, when does too much become harmful? Is it possible that too little can also be harmful?
- How do we negotiate applying for a job or a promotion in our culture without becoming or seeming prideful? Do you think a certain amount of pride is required to be successful in life? Why or why not?

### DIGGING DEEPER

1. As is the case in many things, our culture has a very different perspective on pride than what we find in God's word. Read Psalm 10:4, Proverbs 8:13 and Proverbs 16:5. How do these passages portray God's attitude towards pride?

If pride is such a severe issue for God, why do you think so many Christians are blind to its severity?

Why do you think it is so easy to see the pride in others while it can be so difficult to recognize in ourselves?

2. One of the primary themes in the Apostle Paul's letters to the Ephesians is unity. How do you think our pride can get in the way of unity with other believers?

Read Ephesians 2:1-10. How should verses 1-3 affect the way we look at and engage with those who don't currently know Christ?

How could remembering Christ's work on our behalf counteract the temptation to be prideful?

How could verse ten prevent us from having too low a view of ourselves?

Is there any practical step that this passage might lead you to take?

3. In Matthew chapter twenty-three, Jesus publicly called out the false religiosity of the leaders of his day. Read Matthew 23:1-12. How might you have reacted if you were in the crowd?

The Pharisees in this passage had power, prestige, and influence. How might they have used these things to glorify God instead of themselves?

Is there any area in your life where you could repurpose pride for God's glory?

Can you think of anyone other than Jesus who lives (or lived) his definition of greatness in verse 11?

In what area of your life could you embrace Christlike greatness and take the role of a servant

### TAKING IT HOME

☞ In the message this weekend Pastor Rick talked about three ways to defend against pride. Which of these ways do you feel like you need to work this week?

☞ Take time and pray this week that God will help you to put James 4:6-8 into practice: That you would be humble before God, resist the evil one and draw near to God.

### PRAYER REQUESTS