

Pride

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[0 : 00] Good morning, One Harbor Church. My name is Fricke, and I'm one of the pastors at the church. This is the first sort of official Sunday where we're gathering in homes, very intentionally inviting families and friends to join us.

And we have an opportunity to be the church. Oftentimes we say, let's go to church, but technically we are the church. I want to remind you that through the centuries, Christians have gathered in many different places, in homes and in catacombs.

And so Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 14, 26, he writes to the Corinthians saying, What then, brothers, when you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation.

Let all things be done for building up. So let's take this encouragement to heart. Let's stand together as the worship starts.

Let's turn the volume up of our voices, of the TV. And when we pray, let's participate. Let's all pray together. Let's pray for one another.

[1 : 17] Let's not just have one person pray who's possibly leading the group. And let's wholeheartedly step in and lean in to the sermon and the preaching.

So talking about praying and leaning in and stepping in, let's do that right now as we build each other up in the faith. Father, I thank you for our homes.

I thank you that when any two are gathered together, you are there. As we worship you, as we pray together, as we listen to the preaching of your word, we ask you to build your church.

And I pray, Lord, that we would be strengthened and you would be glorified. In Jesus' name. Amen. Higher than the mountains that I face.

You are stronger than the power of the grave. And constant in the trial and the change.

[2 : 22] And one thing remains. Oh, this one thing remains.

Your love never fails. It never gives up. It never runs out on me. Your love never fails. It never gives up.

It never runs out on me. Oh, your love never fails. It never gives up. It never runs out on me. Your love.

We thank you, Lord. Cause on and on and on and on and on it goes.

And it overwhelms and satisfies my soul. Oh, I never, ever have to be afraid.

[3 : 22] Cause it's one thing. It remains. Your love never fails. It never gives up.

It never runs out on me. Your love never fails. It never gives up. It never runs out on me. Oh, your love never fails.

It never gives up. It never runs out on me. Your love. My love. In death, in life.

In death, in life. I'm confident and covered by the power of your great love.

My death is paid. My death is paid. There's nothing that can separate my heart from your great love.

[4 : 23] Cause your love never fails. It never gives up. It never runs out on me. Your love never fails. It never gives up.

It never runs out on me. Your love never fails. It never gives up. It never runs out on me. Your love. Let's sing a worthy. Worthy of every song we could ever sing. Yes, you are, Lord. Worthy of all the praise we could ever breathe.

You're worthy of every breath we could ever breathe. We live for you. Jesus, the name above every other name.

Jesus, the name above you. Open up my eyes in wonder And show me who you are And fill me with your heart And lead me in your love To those around me Sing it, worthy Worthy of every song We could ever sing Yes, you are

I don't wanna risk getting pulled over. And I put my wallet in my car in a place that if I do get pulled over, I can't be mistaken for reaching for a gun. We were talking just recently too, and he was saying like, man, he used to go out for a walk with his wife in a neighborhood by them.

And it's kind of a fancier neighborhood, and they just enjoyed the time there. And after these things happened, actually, he started to notice that people coming out on the porch and looking through the windows and kind of looking at them askance.

And you know what? Maybe that was nothing but for him. He's like, gosh, I just don't wanna take the chance. I don't know what's going on. And I can tell you, man, those thoughts have never crossed my mind.

And it's not because I'm a better person than Otis. It's just I have a very different experience. And we have to realize that. We have very different experiences and realities that we lived in.

[26 : 03] And I had to realize in many ways, his life is just very different to mine. He deals with problems and fears that I don't. But that doesn't make them illegitimate.

And all these things, man, it was painful for me to hear because I love Otis. It wasn't really painful because I felt like he was attacking police or attacking America. He actually has a very high view of police and he loves the United States.

But at the same time, the prevailing wisdom of history and experience for him has taught him that he is going to be assumed more dangerous than a white guy driving at night, which is really sad and really unfortunate.

And that is the pride of racism. That is the pride of racism that is at work in all of us. And there's a reality that it is at work even today in our cultural moment.

It causes us to assume the worst of others. But I couldn't know that without listening to Otis, without reaching out to him and having an open mind and an open heart to listen.

[27 : 11] I had to let go of the pride that would want to defend and explain all of what he was saying away as just some conspiracy theory. Or what many of us do, we turn it into a political debate of, you know what, that's just left-wing propaganda.

You just bought into this huge lie. No, man, Otis is a real person living with real experience. Now, man, the past couple of weeks has brought us to an interesting moment that we're in.

And you know what? I'm hopeful because I feel like there's this increased sympathy and empathy for our black and brown brothers and sisters in this nation. Do we okay the rioting?

Of course not. God isn't for any kind of injustice. But let's not let the riots overshadow the bigger, more important story here. And pride is going to tempt us to look away and fixate on the wrong thing.

Fixate on the thing that's like easier to condemn, like the riots. This is a time for us to listen. You know, pride, it says, is quick to speak and slow to listen.

[28 : 20] And in contrast, humility is quick to listen and slow to speak. And guys, it's a time to be humble and listen and learn and love our black brothers and sisters.

And if we don't, man, I'm afraid we're going to miss a big moment. That could result in our nation becoming even better than it already is. So let's not let any pride form in us that's going to stand in the way of that.

Pride is just too dangerous. Don't even flirt with it. Don't even entertain it. I want to ask you this.

Think of times in your life where your pride or someone else's caused harmful consequences.

Some of you haven't experienced consequences because of pride yet. And you might be thinking, well, you know what? My pride really isn't that big of a deal.

It hasn't hurt anyone. It hasn't hurt me at all. You know what? And I'm never going to end up being like that cop. But that's the way pride works. We never think it's really affecting us.

[29 : 20] In fact, it often seems to be beneficial in the moment. And Proverbs points this out. It says in chapter 15, verse 12, there is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.

And again, in chapter 16, verse 18, pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall. See, God's wisdom is saying to us that pride may seem beneficial now, but it will eventually bring disaster.

I think of like living proud like this. Living proud is like building the very tower that you're going to fall off one day. And unfortunately, what happens is we don't fall alone, right?

We fall off and we take others with us and they get hurt, or we like land on top of somebody that wasn't aware of anything. There's collateral damage because of our pride.

Sometimes our downfall really doesn't take that long, right? You know, us married people, we think of like, yeah, we go away. I won that argument. And your spouse might say like, well, enjoy that while you're sleeping on the couch tonight.

[30 : 31] Well, how about this one? I don't need rest. I'll sleep when I'm dead. And the immediate benefit of that thought is like I can make more money, get more done, get ahead.

And in the end though, disaster comes and it comes through burnout. So many people just implode. They have mental breakdowns. They destroy their families and their marriages and their kids are bitter and upset and their spouses are angry.

Those men that came after Ahmaud Arbery, I'm sure in the moment, they felt what they were doing was right. We're protecting our streets. We're protecting our property.

It probably seemed beneficial to them in that moment. But in the end, what did it do? It brought the worst disaster. A young man is now dead.

His life robbed of him. His family hurting. And these men, they're probably get, they should end up in prison.

[31 : 34] What was the result of their pride? Seemed beneficial in the moment. Disaster. Pride makes us feel good in the moment. We don't have to face our limitations.

We don't have to face our weaknesses. We don't have to face that we might be wrong. We don't have to face our sinful motivations. And what we do is we shut off our critics and those who want to help us.

And so we construct this false image of ourselves. And here's the thing, guys. We believe that false image. We're deceived by it. We think that's who we really are. So many of us, because of pride, live in self-delusion.

And I did for such a long time. And I'm sure there's things I'm gonna find out later in life and be like, oh my gosh, I didn't really realize how proud I was. And the thing, the person I thought I was, I'm not really that person.

We live in self-delusion because of pride, which is, man, it's so hard to stop being proud. Because pride blinds us to our own pride. So what can we do?

[32 : 35] Well, we have to accept that we need outside help to deal with our pride. Proverbs 16.2 says this, all the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, but the Lord weighs the spirit.

Here's what this is saying. Don't trust yourself because you're gonna think your way is right. And you know what? That's been the problem from the beginning. Adam and Eve, they looked at the fruit on that tree and they saw that it was actually better than being obedient to God.

And in that moment, they chose their way over God's way. And I'm sure in that moment, it seemed like reaching out and taking that fruit was the best choice. I'm sure in that moment, their way was pure in their own eyes.

Again, in the book of Judges, we see this continued phrase as Israel, it keeps running from God and, you know, worshiping other idols and all that.

And it says they kept doing that because everyone did what was right in their own eyes. That's the repeated phrase. They did what was right in their own eyes. Their way seemed pure to themselves.

[33 : 48] This is the human condition. Our way, my way is the right way, the pure way. And we are our own judge and jury. Don't you think, maybe, there might be a little bias there?

We aren't as objective as we'd like to imagine. Yeah, we need, you and I, we need outside help. We need God's help. This proverb says, that is the Lord, it is the Lord who weighs the spirit.

Which is to say, the Lord discerns what is really going on in our hearts. God knows that pride isn't a problem we can fix, that he has to fix it.

And you know what? He did. God sent his son, Jesus, to save us from ourselves. The end of pride starts with a change in your relationship to God.

You can't beat pride until God becomes your father. This isn't earned. It's what Jesus died for on the cross because of what he did in saving us from our sin and cleansing us from our sin.

[34 : 55] We get to be adopted into God's family. God becomes our father. He becomes our heavenly father. And that is when the pride killing really starts. When we learn to become sons and daughters.

This challenges us because we immediately want to know, well, how do I kill pride? Tell me what I have to do. Give me some good tips. Give me 10 tips on how to kill pride and become humble.

But here's the thing. The Proverbs and the whole Bible are saying the same thing. It doesn't start with your effort. It starts with knowing the father. It starts with a relationship with the father. Think about Proverbs.

Think about what it says, who Proverbs is written to. It's not a teacher writing to a student. It's not a master writing to a servant. Proverbs is a father writing to a son.

That's the relationship. Proverbs 1.8 says, hear my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching.

[36 : 03] The father in Proverbs is speaking to his son and giving him his best instructions, his best wisdom, the way of wisdom, the path. It's like, hey, here's the path.

Here's the way you walk in this life. And the wise son, he listens and follows these commands. And as he does this, he's just not obeying the father's teaching.

He's actually doing that. He's walking with the father. He's walking in the way of the father. He's walking in the footsteps of his father. And that is the desire of our father in heaven.

He's given us his word to instruct us and to teach us, and he gives us his Holy Spirit to lead and guide us in the way of wisdom. And you know what?

We need that help. We totally need that help because we want to veer off the path all the time because our way, that seems pure to us. But this requires something of us.

[37 : 00] It requires something of you and me. We have to be obedient to the father. We have to be obedient to God the father. And this is the essential part of being wise and killing pride.

Humility comes through obedience to God. Proverbs 15, 31 says this, The ear that listens to life-giving reproof will dwell among the wise. Whoever ignores instruction despises himself, but he who listens to reproof gains intelligence.

The fear of the Lord is instruction in wisdom, and humility comes before honor. So the word listen is used twice in these verses. And it's a translation of the Hebrew word shama.

But that Hebrew word means more than just to listen. It actually means to listen and obey. Like think of what Jesus said, like, man, don't just be hearers of the word, be doers of the word.

Listen and obey. And that's what the wise do. We don't just learn truth and get information and get knowledge. Actually, man, we become that truth.

[38 : 08] It gets integrated into our being and into our lives, and it's how we begin to live it out. And when we do that, this is how we move from pride to humility.

Now, we can look to Jesus because he gives us the purest example of this. I was just reading this the other day, and it was like, bing! It was so helpful. Philippians 2, verse 5, it says this, have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus.

All right? This is Paul, the apostle, writing to the church. Who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped.

So he's saying, man, Jesus, he wasn't like Adam who thought equality with God could come from grasping at the fruit of disobedience. Nah, Jesus was totally different.

What did he do? Well, in verse 7, it says this, he emptied himself by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of man, and being found in human form. Look at this, guys. He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on the cross.

[39 : 22] How did Jesus humble himself? By being an obedient son. Humility comes through obedience. In John's gospel, Jesus is on the record as saying, I only do what the father tells me.

In the garden before he went to the cross, he's praying and he's praying to the father and he says, you know what? It's not my will, but yours be done. Jesus was the personification of the wise son in Proverbs.

He listened and he obeyed the father's commands. He walked in the way of the father's wisdom, even if that took him to the place of weakness, which humility will often do.

And to be honest, guys, that's why we prefer pride over humility. Humility is always going to be more costly in the moment, but that does not mean it doesn't have its reward.

Look at what it says happened to Jesus after his death on the cross. Philippians 2 verse 9, therefore, because Jesus humbled himself by being obedient even to death, death on the cross, therefore, God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name.

[40 : 43] After the humiliation of the cross, Jesus was exalted by his father. We see humility, man, it sows into weakness, but it reaps the greatest reward.

This is why God's wisdom is so elusive to us. We couldn't come up with this idea on our own. This cuts against the grain of our instincts and sensibilities.

We want our reward and we want it now. But the wise son is patient. The wise son is prudent. The wise son looks further past the circumstance now to do the father's will.

He walks in the father's command knowing one day he will receive the father's inheritance.

Obedience, humility. It may sound tough.

It may sound restrictive. It may sound oppressive in the moment, but the wise son looks further just like Jesus, God's son did. Check this out. Hebrews 12.2. Excuse me. I said Hebrews 12.2 by the way.

[41 : 44] Looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Here's what it comes down to, you guys. Killing pride comes down to this. Who do you believe God is? Is he this cool buddy that you get to hang out with?

Is he a rich uncle that is there to give you cool stuff, show up on your birthday and Christmas and lavish you with great gifts and then he's gone? Or is he a father who loves you?

But is he also a father who expects obedience from you? The fatherless will abound in pride and many other vices. That is true in the natural and that is true in the spiritual.

Maybe you're unsure about God as father and that could be for a variety of reasons. Many of us, we grow up without fathers, whether they're absent or they're just not present when they are there.

Maybe they're abusive fathers and they didn't do fathering well and that has put just a kind of a mistrust or a misunderstanding about how good God is as our father.

[43 : 02] Maybe you prefer to enjoy Jesus as savior. But think about this. In John 14, 9, Jesus says to Philip, his disciple, who asks, man, show us the father. He says, whoever has seen me, Philip, has seen the father.

We don't have to guess what the father is like. Jesus came to show us what the father is like. The father is no different to Jesus. To know Jesus is to know the father.

To trust Jesus is to trust the father. And Jesus goes even further. In John 14, 6, he says this, I'm the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the father except through me.

Jesus came so that we could come to the father. If you aren't a Christian, I want to ask you and challenge you and have you think about what you've been hearing today about pride.

Pride is deadly. it destroys you and it destroys the people around you. But it's also something that you can't deal with on your own.

[44 : 09] Pride means you have to die to your way. Your way that seems so right and so pure in your eyes. It means you have to surrender to God's way. And what does that look like?

That means faith in Jesus. That means believing that actually I'm a sinner who needs salvation and Jesus is the only one who can help me in that.

He came to die for my sins and believing in that, believing that he went to the cross for you, you will be saved and he is the way, the truth, and the life to come to the father. If you're a Christian, I want to ask us, where do you see pride in your heart?

I want to ask you to think about that and meditate on that. Even after this sermon, as you go about the rest of your day and maybe chatting with friends or your spouse or whoever, where is there pride in your heart?

Where do you see pride? Where do others see pride in your heart? And where has it hurt those around you? Some of us, we need to stop, maybe even now, and repent to those we've hurt because of our pride.

[45 : 18] And I want to ask us as well as Christians, where do you, where do we, struggle to live and surrender to the father? And you need to do business with God.

You know that in your life. You know that personally. Where are you struggling to live and surrender and obedience to the father? And bring that to God and do business with him. Guess what, guys?

This is what I love about grace is that we don't have to like realize, oh no, I messed up and then run away in fear and in shame and be afraid we're gonna be punished.

Actually, grace reminds us that Jesus paid it all. That the pride in our hearts, Jesus died for that. And we get to run to the throne of grace.

