

PRIDE

QUESTIONS FOR SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION:

- How would you define pride? Talk it out and write down a precise definition.
- List reasons that you think C. S. Lewis describes pride as “the great sin” and is in a category all its own.
- What impact does pride have on our relationships (i.e. men, spouse, family, church, business and God)?
- In what ways does pride itself manifest in your life at work or home?

READ AND DISCUSS THE TEXT:

- Have one of the men read the text aloud for the group.
- Then make observations from the text for a few minutes without interpreting or applying the text.

¹ Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made.

He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden’?” ² And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. ⁵ For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

GENESIS 3:1-7

C.S. LEWIS

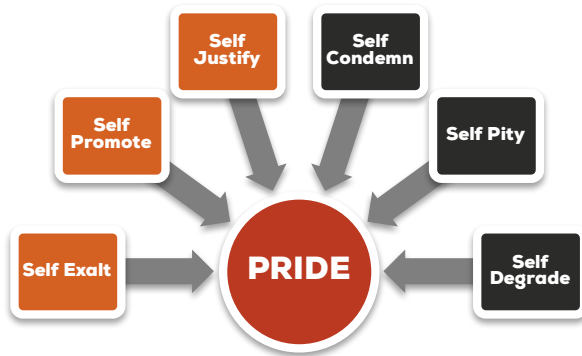
“Pride is the great sin.”

J.R.W. STOTT

“Pride is your greatest enemy, humility is your greatest friend.”

JONATHAN EDWARDS

“Pride is the most hidden, secret, and deceitful of all sins.”



RANK YOURSELF:

These are six insidious forms of pride. While we all know there are more than six, these are common forms we may encounter. Take a moment to privately rank yourself on the sliders and then discuss the questions below.

A FEW INSIDIOUS MANIFESTATIONS OF PRIDE

EXTERNAL FORMS:

1. SELF-EXALTING: **Stealing credit** from God for favor with others.

RARELY
SOMETIMES
OFTEN

2. SELF-PROMOTING: **Selling ourselves** to gain credit for a success.

RARELY
SOMETIMES
OFTEN

3. SELF-JUSTIFYING: **Defending sinful actions** to gain credit.

RARELY
SOMETIMES
OFTEN

INTERNAL FORMS:

4. SELF-CONDEMN: **Tearing self-down** when we have not met our standard.

RARELY
SOMETIMES
OFTEN

5. SELF-PITY: Personal **sorrow over our performance** with others.

RARELY
SOMETIMES
OFTEN

6. SELF-DEGRADE: **Unhealthy personal demolition** that seeks favor.

RARELY
SOMETIMES
OFTEN

QUESTIONS FOR SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION:

- In which of the six forms are you succeeding ("*rarely*")? Why is this easier for you?
- In which of the six forms are you struggling ("*often*")? Why is this difficult for you?
- What creative behavior is required for you to tip the scale slightly and succeed with being less prideful?
- What is your action plan based on this discussion?