

APPLICATION

- "We all put our pants on just one leg at a time." This is a saying that I have heard many times. While this is true for most people, I am sure there are some people who sit on the bed and put both legs in their pants at the same time. That is not the point of the saying. The point of the saying is still true. We are all pretty much the same. The same kind of thinking works with pride and humility too. Just as we can start focusing on the details of how people are and see differences from ourselves, it is still true that we are all pretty much the same.
- There is a much higher way of looking at people, and ourselves, instead of just a comparison basis. We can actually start trying to see ourselves and others as God see us and as God sees them. For some it might mean that they would think more highly of themselves and/or others. For others they may have a few more humble thoughts. The details are not as important as the fresh perspective of how God sees us and others. We all need fresh perspectives.

Prayer

O Lord, help us to see ourselves and others as You see them. Help us not to compare ourselves to others, or compare others to ourselves. Help us instead to be humble and to see and treat others as You would have us to. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Freedom Groups were created with the belief that we are all on a journey through life and that our heart's desire is to be free to be all that we can be. Yet there are many setbacks, heartaches and road blocks along the way. Trying to overcome the issues we face in life by ourselves just does not work. We are all the same, no one is different. We need others to help us successfully walk our journey to freedom. Everyone is invited on this freedom journey. Join in!



Humility

NOTES

WARM-UP

- Recently we made a taco salad. While eating it our youngest son looked at me and said, "Dad this looks disgusting but it is awesome! I love it!" Have you ever seen a dish like that ... it looks bad but tastes great?
- Can you tell of a time when someone saw you in a less than perfect state and you felt embarrassed?

WORD

² Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. Hebrews 13:2 KJV

I have been known to run out of gas in my vehicles. I did it again very recently. This time it was because the gas gauge was not working. I had to walk about 2 miles to get a gas can and to the gas station. While I was pumping gas a young, rough looking man quickly pulled up beside me in an older truck and asked if I needed a lift. Another person was in the truck with him so he said I could jump in the back, open bed of the truck. It was just a couple of miles back, but I saw how young and rough looking he was and thought about how quickly he "whipped" the truck in beside me. So I declined his offer. He said, "Are you sure man? I would be glad to take you!" But I insisted I was fine. As he slowly pulled away I saw his cross necklace hanging from his rear view mirror and his fish symbol on the back of his truck. I quickly knew God had sent an "angel" to help me but I refused the help because of how "the angel" looked. I remembered the Scripture about treating strangers carefully because they could be angels. I then looked down at my clothes and realized I was in my old work clothes, old shoes and my hair was a mess! I immediately started laughing to myself and thought "Okay, God, you got me." About 1/4 mile into my walk back to the van I stepped on a nail. It did not break the skin of my foot but went far enough into my shoe that each time I stepped it poked me. So I had to walk differently to keep it from poking me. Walking that way made my sock constantly roll more and more in my shoe putting a bind on my little toes. So it was either the poke of the nail or twisting, pulling of my sock on my little toes. Neither felt good. I just kept chuckling to my self thinking "God, you got me. I wish I had taken the ride."

1 - Pride comes before a fall.

Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall. Proverbs 16:18

My mom always told me that pride comes before a fall. Have you ever had an experience where your pride led to a fall?

2 - Pride keeps us from love.

There is a famous song that says, "Love is all you need." I do not know about that but it is definitely one of the main things that we all do need. We need to receive love, but we also need to give love. Yet there are many barriers that keep us from freely loving one another. A big barrier to love is pride. In pride we think that the way people are, the mistakes they have made or even the wrongs they have done to us are somehow worse than our own. We see people as somehow less deserving than ourselves. Humility on the other hand sees our own humanity and looks at others as "the same as if not better than" ourselves. This humble stance open us up to seeing the good in others and to seeing that they are deserving of our love. Honestly, how do you tend to see others?

3 - Grace is given to the humble!

God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble! James 4:6

I do not believe that God put that nail in the road for me to step on, nor did He make the shoes and socks such that they would work together to hurt my foot if I walked funny. However I sure do know that the walk to the gas station was much easier than the walk back! If I had not been in pride but had humbly seen the generosity of another, my life would have been so much easier. Have you ever experienced a time when humility led to a blessing?