



# The Monster in Me Hidden in Plain Sight

#nptthemonsterinme

Week 2  
2 of 4

October 13, 2019

**Bottom Line:** Saying NO to pride is saying YES to God.

**Icebreaker:** Have each person choose a piece of clothing or jewelry they are wearing or an item in their purse, wallet, or pocket and share with the group something that item tells about them and who they really are.

**Key Verse:** *Sincerity and truth are what you require; fill my mind with your wisdom.* Psalm 51:6 GNT

Pride IS a monster. A man and woman eating monster. It renders us unteachable, closes our minds to feedback, prevents us from admitting mistakes, limits our gratitude, distorts our perspective, keeps us from honesty, destroys relationships, and strangles generosity. The scariest thing is, we all have that monster. On our own we are incurable narcissists, in desperate need of rescue. Pride always marginalizes us and makes us smaller. It marginalizes others and drives them away. When I am full of me, there is no room for others—I minimize everyone else in the room. Pride marginalizes God as well. When we see ourselves as the center of our world, even God is pushed out.

Jesus' invitation to follow Him is an opportunity to rid ourselves of pride. He showed and taught a radical version of humility. He redefined greatness by showing that it is not how many people serve you, but how well you serve others. Greatness isn't about defending me. It is a liberating way to live in humility. God promises us grace to change if we submit to Him. There is no way to access God's grace without humility. James, the brother of Jesus, gives us very direct instructions on how to reject pride and receive God's grace for life (James 4:6-10):

- Submit to God. Actively give control to Him.
- Resist the devil. Be alert and aware of his plans to destroy you. He always appeals to your pride.
- Draw close to God. As you resist the devil, he will run from you. That gives you the opportunity to draw very close to God. The closer I get to God, the less prideful I am and the better I get along with others.
- Repent of your sins. Repent means to change the way I think. Don't minimize your pride and sins. Take them seriously. Ask forgiveness of God and others. He has promised that if you do, He will lift you up!

Embracing the radical style of humility Jesus offers will radically change your life for the good!

## THINK IT OVER >>>

What impacted you most from the message?

*There is good pride and bad pride—just like good and bad cholesterol.* How would you define the difference?

"The fountainhead to all vice is pride. Every other sin is a mere expression, a symptom of pride." — C. S. Lewis  
Agree or disagree? Support your answer.

Pride marginalizes me and makes me unable to admit wrong, apologize, acknowledge the truth, and unwilling to show appreciation. My pride stifles sharing, listening, and giving what is needed in the moment. Stop and think. When has your pride held you back from giving what another person needed?

*Pride diminishes our capacity to give love and receive love well.* Where do you see that in society? Where do you see it in yourself?

How do you know when someone is full of himself?

## LOOK IT OVER <<<

*Your pride, not your intellect, is keeping you from God. Your real issue is not how smart you are but how prideful you are—you stiff-arm God and people with your intellect.* Reflect. Discuss.

Pride is bondage. No one says, "I would like to develop such a huge dose of pride that I don't feel close to anyone and no one feels close to me." But this is what happens when pride controls you. How has this happened in your life?

What has been the biggest challenge in your life concerning pride so far? How have you grown?

*You can follow Jesus without believing everything, but you can't follow Him full of pride.* How does that statement strike you? Why?

How would you describe a person who is "clothed in humility"? What is present? What is absent?

*Humility is a grace gift, not an act of willpower.* Discuss.

## NEXT STEPS

This week consider taking some next steps together as a group:

1. Honestly consider these questions: How does pride show itself in me? How does pride hide in me? How much longer do I intend to let pride control me?
2. Spend some time alone with God to answer these questions.
3. Repent and submit in any area God shows you.

## EVALUTION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

**Bottom Line:** Saying NO to pride is saying YES to God.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

## PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

## DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at [newpointe.org/daily](http://newpointe.org/daily):

Monday: Psalm 10:4

Tuesday: Obadiah 1:3

Wednesday: Matthew 11:29

Thursday: Proverbs 11:2

Friday: Daniel 4:37

***Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.***

*(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)*