



The Monster in Me Unmasking the Monster

#nptthemonsterinme

Week 1

1 of 4

October 1, 2019

Bottom Line: When you choose to follow Jesus, you choose to unfollow pride.

Icebreaker: What's the accomplishment in your life that makes you most legitimately proud? If you are bragging on your kids or family, what do you usually talk about?

Key Verse: "He must increase, but I *must* decrease." John 3:30 NKJV

Pride is basically feeling that you are more important than others. It is an inordinate, excessive self-esteem. The angel Lucifer was created to be beautiful, intelligent, anointed, and more powerful than any of the angels. He started admiring his own beauty and power and wanted even more. He was more interested in his own increase than God's, and when he took his eyes off God and His power and plan, his fall came. He lost sight of the fact that God is the Mighty One, and his pride became the source of his life and his own destruction.

Since then pride has been at the root of so much destruction in humanity. Pride feeds the monster in me. The result of pride is always a fall. Pride is the state of a heart that has become self-reliant, self-inflated, and God-ignoring. Every one of us is susceptible to it, and what makes pride so dangerous is its pervasive ability to hide from oneself. It's in us, and we don't see it. We see it in others and are disappointed, disgusted, or shocked. But we easily are completely blind to it in our own lives.

Pride is a heart-attitude sin that overflows into a person's motivation, decision-making, and activities. Pride is at the root of nearly every problem with which we struggle. It is dangerous in every relationship. We should be aware of the common traits all prideful people exhibit in their day-to-day behavior. This should lead us to examine our hearts and expose the monster in ourselves. This is absolutely essential for a Jesus-follower, and it must be the priority commitment because the Pride Monster seeks to destroy all of us. Even John the Baptist, Jesus' cousin and forerunner, had the opportunity and temptation to prop himself up, to manage his own press, to keep score. After all, he was in ministry even before Jesus! Now everyone was blowing up Jesus, and even John's followers were going to Jesus. John's response? "*He must increase, but I must decrease.*" It's still true. If you follow Jesus, you must unfollow pride.

THINK IT OVER >>>

What impacted you most from the message?

Pride is universal—something we all deal with. Yet we don't always see it, for it grows like weeds around our lives. We know the disease, but we don't recognize the symptoms. Agree or disagree? Why?

The only cure for pride is a fall. How have you witnessed or experienced that? Does a fall always cure pride? What other reactions may happen?

Ten tell-tale symptoms of pride are fear, entitlement or ingratitude, people-pleasing, comparison/fault-finding, hypocrisy, prayerlessness, rebellion, perfectionism, controlling, and defensiveness. Which one most surprises you? Which one is most likely to creep up in your own life?

Prideful people don't listen well. Why do you suppose that is?

LOOK IT OVER >>>

Prideful people love to talk about what they know, who they know, and why you should know what they know. They like to talk. They love to use you as an audience for them to proclaim their infinite wisdom and knowledge. Simply being talkative is not a symptom of pride. What are the distinctives of talking that flow from pride?

Prideful people always think the other person needs to apologize or change. Do you have any relationships where one party can never apologize? Does it seem to be a pride issue?

Prideful people don't pray because prayer, by definition, requires humility. Therefore, they live their lives void of prayer—especially in the simplest of things. They don't believe they need God's grace throughout their day because they are enough in and of themselves. Proud people do not pray. Is that a new thought to you? Many times, people say they don't pray because they feel unworthy. How does that relate to pride?

NEXT STEPS

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

1. Ask God to help you evaluate your own life for symptoms of the Pride Monster.
2. Wherever you see pride poking out it's head, ask God to help you work with Him to capture the monster.
3. Memorize and say daily John 3:30: *"He must increase, but I must decrease."* What might that mean for you?

EVALUTION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: When you choose to follow Jesus, you choose to unfollow pride.

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:

Monday: Prov. 8:13; Gal. 6:4; 2 Cor. 7:4

Tuesday: Galatians 2:20

Wednesday: Psalm 10:4

Thursday: 2 Corinthians 10:18

Friday: 1 Corinthians 4:7

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)