



## **PROUD OR HUMBLE?**

### SECTION I. Introduction

- A. In your country, is it usually considered a good thing to be proud?
- B. Do you consider it good to be proud?
- C. What does being proud really mean? Can it be both negative and positive?
- D. Where do we get the things that we can be proud of? Where do you think the Bible says these things come from?

### SECTION II. What does God say about pride?

- A. Read the following passages and discuss what God says.
  - 1. Proverbs 8:13.
  - 2. Proverbs 11:2.

3. Proverbs 13:10.

4. Proverbs 29:23.

5. James 4:6.

B. How would you describe what God thinks about pride?

### SECTION III. What do you think humility means?

A. Is it good or bad? What do you think the world says about it?

B. Read the following passages and discuss what God says about humility.

1. Read Proverbs 15:33.

2. Read Proverbs 25:6-7.

C. Read the following passages and discuss; what does God do for those who are humble?

1. Psalms 18:27.

2. Psalms 25:9.

3. Proverbs 3:34.

#### SECTION IV. Godly Attitudes

When we are baptized into our new life with Jesus, we are to become more like God. During His life here on earth, Jesus showed us what God is like. He also showed us the right kind of attitudes. Read John 13:12-17. Jesus showed us humility in a very practical way.

##### A. What did He do?

1. Why does this show Jesus' humility?
2. What does Jesus ask us to do?
3. Give some examples in your own life of something you did not want to do because it seemed beneath you. How do you think Jesus might have reacted?

##### B. Jesus gave His disciples an example of how they were to serve others. But Jesus served us in a much more important way. Read Philippians 2:8.

1. What did Jesus do?
2. What are the results for us? Read Romans 5:8-11 and list the results.
3. Why do you think God did this for us? How does that make you feel?

4. Think about how you follow God's ideas about pride and humility in your life. How might you like to change?

came as a result of the fact that in that culture, this job was the job of the lowliest servant. Peter was thinking as a human would think, but Jesus insisted that He be allowed to wash Peter's feet. In some cultures, feet (and shoes) are considered very dirty because they have touched the ground. You might explore what would be the lowliest or dirtiest job in various cultures.(Scrubbing out the toilets?)

## **NOTES**

**PROUD OR HUMBLE  
LEADER'S NOTES**

Section I.

The introductory questions are meant to help internationals think about their own cultural norms in terms of what being proud or humble means. Pride is considered good in some cultures and improper in others. You might explore the difference between pride and arrogance in the various cultures. Some cultures have strict rules about social structure and being proud of their status in society might be considered very important.

You may wish to talk about the difference between self confidence and pride. An important point is the fact that Christians believe that we are to *boast only in the Lord*, as it is God who gives us everything. Of ourselves we have nothing of which to boast. This is hard for many people who do not believe in God and even for most of us who do.

Section II.

- A. 2. Proverbs 11:2 Arrogance has results which are uncomfortable and unwanted.
- A. 3. Proverbs 13:10 Note the contrast between arrogance and being willing to take advice.

Section III.

- A. Proverbs 25:6-7 and Proverbs 15:33. This idea is further developed in Luke 14:8 where Jesus is at the home of a Pharisee. At all banquets, guests were seated on the basis of their social ranking. This was carefully observed and the more honored guests usually received either larger or more choice portions of food during the event.

Section IV.

- A. 1. John 13:12-17 When Jesus took a towel and began to wash the disciples feet, Peter reacted by saying that he would never allow Jesus to do that for him. His reaction

**PROUD OR HUMBLE  
VOCABULARY**

**Proverbs 8:13**

hate	greatly dislike
pride	having a sense of our own value, satisfaction in our work or (sometimes) even too high an opinion of our worth
arrogance	believing that we are extremely important, having a haughty self importance, or thinking we are far better than others
evil	very bad, sinful
behavior	the way a person acts
twisted speech	lies or untruths, saying what you do not mean or what is untrue

**Proverbs 11:2**

shame	a painful feeling that is a result of guilt, embarrassment, unworthiness or some kind of disgrace
wisdom	understanding of what is true, right, or lasting
humble	not proud

**Proverbs 13:10**

produce	grow, to bring forth or yield—America <i>produces</i> many vegetables and fruits
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quarreling            fighting  
advice                opinion given on how to act  
gain                    increase

**Proverbs 29:23**

humiliate            to make someone feel worthless, to destroy  
                          a person's good feelings about himself  
Spirit                Holy Spirit, third person of the triune God  
honor                showing great respect

**James 4:6**

oppose                to move against something or to put  
                          something opposite something else

**Proverbs 25:6-7**

brag                    to talk in a boastful or proud way about  
                          something  
notable                something that we should notice, or pay  
                          attention to

**Proverbs 15:33**

discipline            training which results in moral or mental  
                          improvement

**Psalms 18:27**

conceited            proud or arrogant

**Proverbs 3:34**

mock                    make fun of, or treat with contempt  
gracious              acting with kindness and courtesy

**John 13:12-17**

disciples             people who believe in and follow Jesus  
slave                    a person who is owned by another person  
                          and who must work for his owner without  
                          pay  
superior                of high quality or rank  
messengers            persons who deliver a message

**Philippians 2:8**

humbled                to lower the position (ranking) of oneself  
obedient                following the rules or laws

**Romans 5:8-11**

demonstrates        shows  
approval                the act of thinking (and often saying) that  
                          what was done was good, or that a person  
                          is thought of favorably  
restore                 make right, bring back to original condition  
relationship            connection  
point                    place, event