



Brown Community Group Discussion Guide

7 Deadly Characteristics to Your Godly Peace, Joy and Contentment

August 15, 2021 Lesson 5

As we continue our series today with the **"7 Deadly Characteristics to Your Godly Peace, Joy and Contentment"** we will be focusing primarily on Comparisons. You will remember from last week, we covered the first of our characteristics, Comparisons.

Each of these characteristics can and will totally destroy your Christian Spirit and God's ability to work through you for a Victorious, Peaceful and Content Christian Life:

1. Perfectionism
2. Comparisons
3. **Pride**
4. Selfishness (Your relationship with God and what serves as its basis)
5. Competiveness With Wrongly Placed Motives
6. Not Recognizing and Using Your God Given Spiritual Gifts
7. Control

As we step through each of these deadly characteristics to our Spiritual conditions, we need to remind ourselves that this whole series is about each of us **Freeing our Heart, Mind, Body and Soul!**

A. **Introduction of Pride**

Starter Thoughts and Questions:

- What does it mean to be humble of spirit? How are we to act and conduct ourselves?
- How is humbleness tied to our relationship with Christ?
- Does our degree of humbleness affect our ability to serve? Or be saved?
- Does being humble mean that we are submissive, weak or not standing up for beliefs?

Pride means "to show oneself above."

- It does not imply or mean that others look up to, but one who stands on **his own self-created pedestal**.
- Pride has its roots in a feeling of greatness, wealth of something, being special or accomplishment.
 - Pride is actually a mark of inner inferiority and uncertainty
 - Such people compensate by over-emphasizing and flaunting the qualities they think they possess that will cause others to think well of them
 - Each person can set his own standard of comparison, regardless of his real accomplishments. Sad reality of pride: In many cases, the person is actually somewhat delusional in comparing their own perceived accomplishment, skill or position.

Other important points:

- Pride corrupts your wisdom and blinds you
- Do not allow your very gifts and strengths to deceive you into misjudging your value
- Remember that all things are made and provided from God and not done by yourself (stewardship).
- ***True evaluation and recognition of the self in relation to God, not other men. The basis of your evaluation should be humility, not pride.***

Definition of Humble:

- Not proud or arrogant; modest
- Having a feeling of insignificance, subservience
- low in rank, importance, status

- courteously respectful
- to destroy the independence, power, or will
- to make meek

God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. While the world might define humility as a lowering of oneself in relation to others, a freedom of pride and arrogance, and having a modest opinion or estimate of one's own worth; It is not groveling in front of others, being a doormat, or a sign of weakness.

B. Scriptures for Lesson:

Ezekiel 28:17-19

17 Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So I threw you to the earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings. 18 By your many sins and dishonest trade you have desecrated your sanctuaries. So I made a fire come out from you, and it consumed you, and I reduced you to ashes on the ground in the sight of all who were watching. 19 All the nations who knew you are appalled at you; you have come to a horrible end and will be no more.

First recorded [sin](#) in all of God's creation involved [pride](#).

- What Lucifer thought about himself was the overall cause of his downfall
- Pride corrupts the wisdom that should have kept him from falling
- Your good looks, brains, skill and power can trouble you. Do not allow your very gifts and strengths to deceive you into misjudging your value in comparison to others
- Remember that all things are made and provided from God and not done by yourself.

Luke 18:9-14

9 To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: 10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' 13 "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.' 14 "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.

Notice [Jesus'](#) teaching in verse 9:

- Parable written to those who trusted in themselves that they were “righteous”, and despised others
- *Despised* means "to count as nothing" or "to be contemptuous of."
- [Pride](#) finds fertile ground in our process of comparisons and begins to produce corrupt fruit.

The Pharisees possessed a misguided confidence that caused them to magnify self.

- Comparing to others they felt to be inferior, feeding our own opinion of self, causing separation from his fellow man.
- Pride and separation from our fellow man will result in war with God and separation
- The Pharisee's pride deluded him into thinking he had a righteousness he did not really possess. His [prayer](#) is full of self-congratulation, and like a circle, it keeps him firmly at its center
- Filled with conceit and is totally unaware of it

The humble publican did not delude himself into thinking he was righteous. What made the difference? It was *a true evaluation and recognition of the self in relation to God, not other men. The basis of their*

evaluations or comparisons—pride or humility—made a startling difference in their conclusions, revealing each man's attitudes about himself and his motivations.

1 Corinthians 5:1-2

1 It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that even pagans do not tolerate: A man is sleeping with his father's wife. 2 And you are proud! Shouldn't you rather have gone into mourning and have put out of your fellowship the man who has been doing this?

The Corinthians were continually comparing themselves to each other:

- Pride caused them to take sin lightly
- Pride produced complacency due to a perverse sense of comparison
- While the humble would be filled with shame, remorse and grief; The proud hardly stirred any remorseful emotion
- Corinthians let their pride interfere with their ability to perceive sin

2 Corinthians 10:12-17

12 We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise. 13 We, however, will not boast beyond proper limits, but will confine our boasting to the sphere of service God himself has assigned to us, a sphere that also includes you. 14 We are not going too far in our boasting, as would be the case if we had not come to you, for we did get as far as you with the gospel of Christ.... 17 But, "Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord."

Comparing among themselves caused:

- A professing Christian who, in his own eyes, sets himself up as the standard of righteousness, will compare himself to others who appear to him to be less spiritual than himself.
- His views are the standard of righteousness, and his ways of worship are the models of proper devotion. He looks on himself as the true measure of spirituality, humility, and zeal, and he condemns others for failing to rise to his level. He judges everything by his own benchmark: himself.

1 Peter 5:5

5 In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble." 6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. 7 Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

Humility has its basis in an honest and realistic comparison of us with God. To compare ourselves with other people always allows us a great deal of wiggle room because we can always find flaws in other people's character

- Our goal is to be in the image of God; We will always come out on the short end of the stick. We are woefully poor (poor of spirit) of any value, any quality or characteristic. We fall so far short of His [holiness](#) that it knocks the props right out from under any idea we might have to take [pride](#) in ourselves.
- If we are striving to be like Him, to walk in His steps, to be in His image, this comparison gives us a much more realistic foundation to work from. It is a wonderful attitude adjuster.
- Humility's dominant thrust is its willingness to submit to God and to what is right and true. Our level of humility sets the tone of our relationship with God and others.

Philippians 2:3-4 "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others."

- The person that is truly humble is the person who will “count others more significant than” themselves because they will “look not only to their own interests, but also to the interests of others.” Serving others when we need something ourselves is true humility. Thinking more highly of others than self and putting their interests ahead of ours.

Matthew 23:10-12 “Neither be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Christ. The greatest among you shall be your servant. Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.”

- Who will be the greatest among those in the church today? It will be those who are servants or serving others. If a person exalts themselves, they will be humbled but if they humble themselves first then they will be exalted by God because God exalts the humble and humbles the exalted.

Ephesians 4:1-3 “I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

- The manner in which we walk that is worthy of our calling is to walk with “all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love”. Irritation and differences of opinion over time can create something beautiful that can only be formed by walking in humility, gentleness, patience, and forbearance.

2 Chronicles 7:14 “If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land”

C. Questions for Small Group Discussion:

1. Discuss the difference between “humbleness of Spirit” and showing humbleness outwardly; Is there or can there be a difference?
2. Can a person be saved without being humble?
3. Why does the world’s definition of “humbleness” usually include or focus on being submissive or weak?
4. Why can Christians find it easier to humble themselves before God, but show so much arrogance and piousness with our fellow humans?
5. Discuss the best ways you have found to be humble and keep your own importance in check? What wisdom has God shared with you?
6. Discuss how the root of pride has its origin in self and making us feel like something special?
7. Discuss why Pride corrupts your ability to spiritual wisdom?
8. Discuss why pride seems to generate complacency toward sin? What is this about?
9. Discuss your willingness to submit? Do you feel your will to submit is directly related with our humility? Can we be humble if we are not submissive spiritually?