

## “A Need to Be First” | Pride

**GETTING STARTED:** What do you know about the book “Pride and Prejudice?” Could you name any of the main characters? Have you seen the movie?

### EXPLORE THE TOPIC:

1. Consider the quote, “It’s so easy to see pride in other people, but it’s next to impossible to see it in ourselves.” Why is this the case?
2. How can you tell if someone is exhibiting pride? What are the different types (good and bad) of pride? What sort of pride comes in the way of influencing others for the gospel?
3. What would you say to someone that said, “There’s not an ounce of pride in my life!” Is it even possible for someone to live a pride-free life?
4. How do Proverbs 16:18 and 29:23 help paint a picture of the destructive nature of pride? How is a grenade (with a pin and explosive power) like pride?
5. How can the “need to be first” impact a church community? How does it impact members? Visitors? The neighborhood? Where do we see this living out in church?
6. Proverbs 8:13 sets the stage for God’s hatred of pride. Read the following passages as a reminder of why God hates pride:
  - Disgrace Proverbs 11:2
  - Strife Proverbs 13:10
  - Abuse Proverbs 14:3
  - Destruction Proverbs 16:18-19
  - Downfall Proverbs 18:12
  - Produces sin Proverbs 21:4

7. Brooks offered several suggestions on how to take steps away from pride. How do each of these help address pride? What makes these so difficult?

- Humble yourself enough to admit your pride to God (1 Peter 5:5-7)
- Practice a servant attitude (Luke 14:11)

8. One of our church’s four resolutions this year was to encourage people to “influence 1” person in their life with the gospel message. What will need to take place in our church culture for that resolution to become reality? What steps do you need to take in your own life?

### APPLY THE TRUTH:

Consider attending the “No Joke Project” on April 3 at 7:00pm at the Hoogland Center. This event will feature insights from a Christian pastor, Islamic imam and Jewish rabbi as they tell of their friendships despite their differences. More information available at [www.nojokeproject.com](http://www.nojokeproject.com). Tickets available at [www.hcfta.org](http://www.hcfta.org).

### PRAY:

Dear God,

It is so easy to focus on myself and the things I want. Help me to abandon any ounce of a need to be first. Turn my eyes to those around me and help focus on their needs first. Help me to influence one person in my life with the gospel message.

Amen

### NOTES:

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