

# Spiritual Discernment

Lesson 5: Pride and Humility  
Springs Reformed Church  
High School Class  
March 29, 2015

Briefly review the main points from last week's lesson.

- Satan's power is *always* limited; anything that God *allows* him to do is ultimately for the believer's benefit
- Satan as the *accuser*—he wants you to think that salvation has more to do with your *performance* than God's *promises*
- Satan's names & titles help describe who he is and what he does, e.g., adversary, tempter, liar, murderer, destroyer, serpent, dragon—he sets himself in direct opposition to God
- As creatures, we have a certain amount of *freedom*, but we are never *autonomous*. Hence it is both foolish and futile to reject God's word as the source and standard of truth
- Discernment is paramount in light of the deceiver's *subtlety* (and the damage that sin has already done to our hearts and minds). Nevertheless, we can place our confidence in the word of God to discern between every kind of truth and error.

What is pride? What is humility?

Contrast the sin of pride with the virtue of humility. What is the difference between worldly self-esteem and godly humility? How does society view these traits? (In what ways does society reward pride and disdain humility?) How is pride woven into the fabric of our society?

“My child is an honor student at Smith Elementary.”

Pride is contrary to which commandment?

Satan's chief sin is *pride* (or presumption)—thinking of himself more highly than he ought, and seeking to take God's place rather than to serve him.

Pride shows up most clearly in our unwillingness to submit to authority. (“No!”)

Pride also shows up in our desire to take credit for ourselves.

How does pride draw people away from the one true God into the sins of idolatry and atheism?

How does pride tend to set men against each other?

What are some additional illustrations of pridefulness?

Read Daniel 4:29-37. How is it that Nebuchadnezzar ends up with more than he started with (4:36)?

Why is it such an egregious sin to take credit for your accomplishments? How does this incident illustrate the principle that “godliness with contentment is great gain”? (cf. 1 Tim 6:3-11)

What kind of “boasting” is proper? (1 Cor 1:31; 2 Cor 1:12, 14; Gal 6:14)

**Review:** Look up the following verses in Proverbs: 3:34, 8:13, 11:2, 16:18, 21:24, 27:1, 29:23.

**Homework:** Read James 4. Make a list of the warnings and the promises contained in this chapter.