

Connect

This [Spiritual Pride] is the main door by which the devil comes into the hearts of those who are zealous for the advancement of religion. – Jonathan Edwards

What do you think is meant by "spiritual pride," and why is it so dangerous?

Verses - Ephesians 5:1-5 (CSB)

1 Therefore, be imitators of God, as dearly loved children,

2 and walk in love, as Christ also loved us and gave himself for us, a sacrificial and fragrant offering to God. 3 But sexual immorality and any impurity or greed should not even be heard of among you, as is proper for saints. 4 Obscene and foolish talking or crude joking are not suitable, but rather giving thanks. 5 For know and recognize this: Every sexually immoral or impure or greedy person, who is an idolater, does not have an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

Study

1. Why should we be imitators of God? (Ephesians 1:3-6, 4:6, 5:1)

2. In what ways can we as human beings imitate God? (Ephesians 4:32, Matthew 5:43-48)

3. How can we imitate Christ? (Ephesians 5:2)

4. In what ways do humans fall short of the glory of God? Why? Has anyone not fallen short of the glory of God? How are we to respond when people do?

5. Does this mean that, apart from Christ, NOBODY has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God? (Ephesians 1:4, 2:4-5, 4:1, 4:17, 4:25, Matthew 6:12)

APPLY

If you visited a Christian Church and heard not much thanksgiving, but a lot of foolish talking and crude joking, what would you conclude? How would this influence your decision about whether to attend this church?

DISCUSS

Since every person, including every Christian, is guilty of sin and can only hope to enter the kingdom by God's grace through Jesus Christ, what does this tell us about how we are supposed to forgive one another?

Consider what Jesus teaches about forgiveness in the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:12).

Share

Have you ever had the experience of God disciplining you for your ungodly behavior? What was that experience like? How has God changed you since you became a believer? Are you thankful now for the discipline you received?

Grow

Please pray that the Holy Spirit will change us continually, causing us to take off the old and sinful bits while putting on the new and godly. Please pray that we will never forget that our salvation and our sanctification is by Gods' grace and power, and that we will never come to think of ourselves as being less sinful than other people.