

ENCORE Discoveries

1. Which of the daily devotionals from chapter three (*This Week!*) had the most affect on you, and why?
2. What is the key theme in today's verses? BODY WITHOUT _____
3. In chapter three we learned that God will some day judge us with clear, revealing testing. He will judge our thoughts, motives, and attitudes. Look up the following passages and discuss judging as it applies to us.

- I Corinthians 4:3-5 –
- I Corinthians 5:3, 12,13 –
- Luke 6:37 –
- John 7:24 –

4. Look at verses 8-13 of the Corinthians passage. What is the difference between how Paul viewed himself and how the Corinthians viewed themselves?

Was it a difference of substance or perspective?

What was Paul's purpose in saying what he did in these verses?

5. *PRIDE* is *building my life around myself*, while *HUMILITY* is *building my life around Jesus Christ and others*. Based on that definition, how do pride and humility affect each of these areas recently addressed in our study?

- Unity –
- Wisdom –
- Spirituality –
- Building on the Foundation –

6. Paul felt compelled to treat the Corinthians as true family members, and they were—they were brothers and sisters in Christ (v. 14-21). Do you think Paul was being a faithful “father in the faith,” that is, treating them as a father would his own children? Why or why not?

7. How can we get involved in the process of being a “spiritual parent” to those less mature in the faith?

Theme: Body Without Pride

Monday

According to I Corinthians 4:2, what is a primary characteristic that God desires in His children?

What is one specific way that I can work on that this week (loyalty in loving others, in prayer, in Bible study, at my job, in serving my family, etc.)?

Tuesday

“Pride” is a nasty word in God’s estimation. Even more, it’s a poisonous, infectious attitude. Pride is *avoiding necessary character change by expecting others to fit their ideas and feelings around mine*¹.

How do we see this negative character trait displayed in Proverbs 13:10, and what positive characteristic in this verse helps to put pride in its place?

Wednesday

Can you confidently tell someone to “imitate me” (v. 16)?

Why or why not?

Obviously, it doesn’t have to involve pride, or Paul wouldn’t have told others to imitate him while writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. How then can we righteously encourage others to “imitate” or follow us as we build our lives on Christ?

Thursday

Have you ever had a “father (or mother) in the faith”?

When was the last time you thanked them for their investment in your life?

List two or three ways you can do that in the days ahead.

Friday

Webster’s dictionary says that humility is “having or showing a consciousness of one’s defects or shortcomings.” It also says it “suggests an unassuming character in which there is an absence of pride and assertiveness.” Now look at Psalm 34:2. How did David repel pride? (Notice that the verses before and after also support this thought.)

Saturday

When we live for Christ, we will one day be rewarded for our loyalty (“faithfulness”)—but *only* if we serve Him with the right motives (v. 5). In what one specific area can you begin to “reflect glory back to God” in your life (it may be in an area of pride or some other sin)?

“LORD, help me to daily demonstrate to others that *You alone are worthy of admiration*. May I not take what belongs to You and accept it for myself (pride). Help me to cast back any glory I receive to You, where it belongs.”

¹ Institute of Basic Life Principles definition