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Pride is essentially competitive — is competitive by its very nature — while the other vices are competitive only, so to speak, by accident

Pride gets no pleasure out of having something, only out of having more of it than the next man. We say that people are proud of being rich, or clever, or good-looking, but they are not. They are proud of being richer, or cleverer, or better-looking than others. If every one else became equally rich, or clever, or good-looking there would be nothing to be proud about. It is the comparison that makes you proud: the pleasure of being above the rest. Once the element of competition has gone, pride has gone. That is why I say that Pride is essentially competitive in a way the other vices are not.

~C.S. Lewis



“Unless you turn and become like children you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.” ~Matthew 18:1-9

- 1) Read Matthew 18:1-9. Is there anything from the sermon or passage that you found confusing, surprising or encouraging?
- 2) What makes a person great? How does yours or the world's conception of greatness compare to Jesus'? What does it mean to become like a child?
- 3) What competitions does your pride involuntarily enter you in? What kinds of things do you compare? What causes you to feel inferior or superior in your community? How do you use the gospel to drown your pride? Is there a good kind of pride?
- 4) Read Matthew 18:6. How does Jesus build community and undermine our pride with this verse? What would it look like to treat others like Jesus in our church and family? Who should you spend more time with in the church?
- 5) How does your pride get in the way of you changing (vv.18:8-9)? How does gospel humility change your attitude towards co-workers, children and spouses?
- 6) Pray for Hope Church to be a humble community because of the grace of the gospel.

“Almighty God our heavenly Father, who declares his glory and shows forth his handiwork in the heavens and in the earth: Deliver us in our various occupations from the service of self alone, that we may do the work which you give us to do in truth and beauty and for the common good; for the sake of him who came among us as one that serves, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.”

~Book of Common Prayer (p.210)