

**EXPERIENCING AND
EXPRESSING GOD'S LOVE
THROUGH SERVICE**

OUR FALLEN CONDITION

We are more concerned about

servicing ourselves

and

remaining comfortable

than serving with a love like Jesus.

BIG IDEA

Service is how we
experience and express
God's love.

John 13:1-17

SERVICE IS HOW WE EXPERIENCE **AND EXPRESS GOD'S LOVE**

1. Let Jesus show you the full extent of his love.
(John 13:1-5)

LET JESUS SHOW YOU THE FULL EXTENT OF HIS LOVE

- Jesus loved his disciples “to the last.”
- Foot washing was a radical example of selfless love that foreshadowed the cross.
- Jesus loved us “to the last” on the cross.
- “Your freedom is anchored in claiming your belovedness.” – H.N.
- Who are you running to for affirmation?
- Allow God to “wash your feet” on a daily basis – that’s where ministry starts.

SERVICE IS HOW WE EXPERIENCE AND EXPRESS GOD'S LOVE

1. Let Jesus show you the full extent of his love.
(John 13:1-5)
2. Overcome your pride and fear (in God's power).
(John 13:6-11)

OVERCOME YOUR PRIDE AND FEAR

Pride – thinking you are good enough.

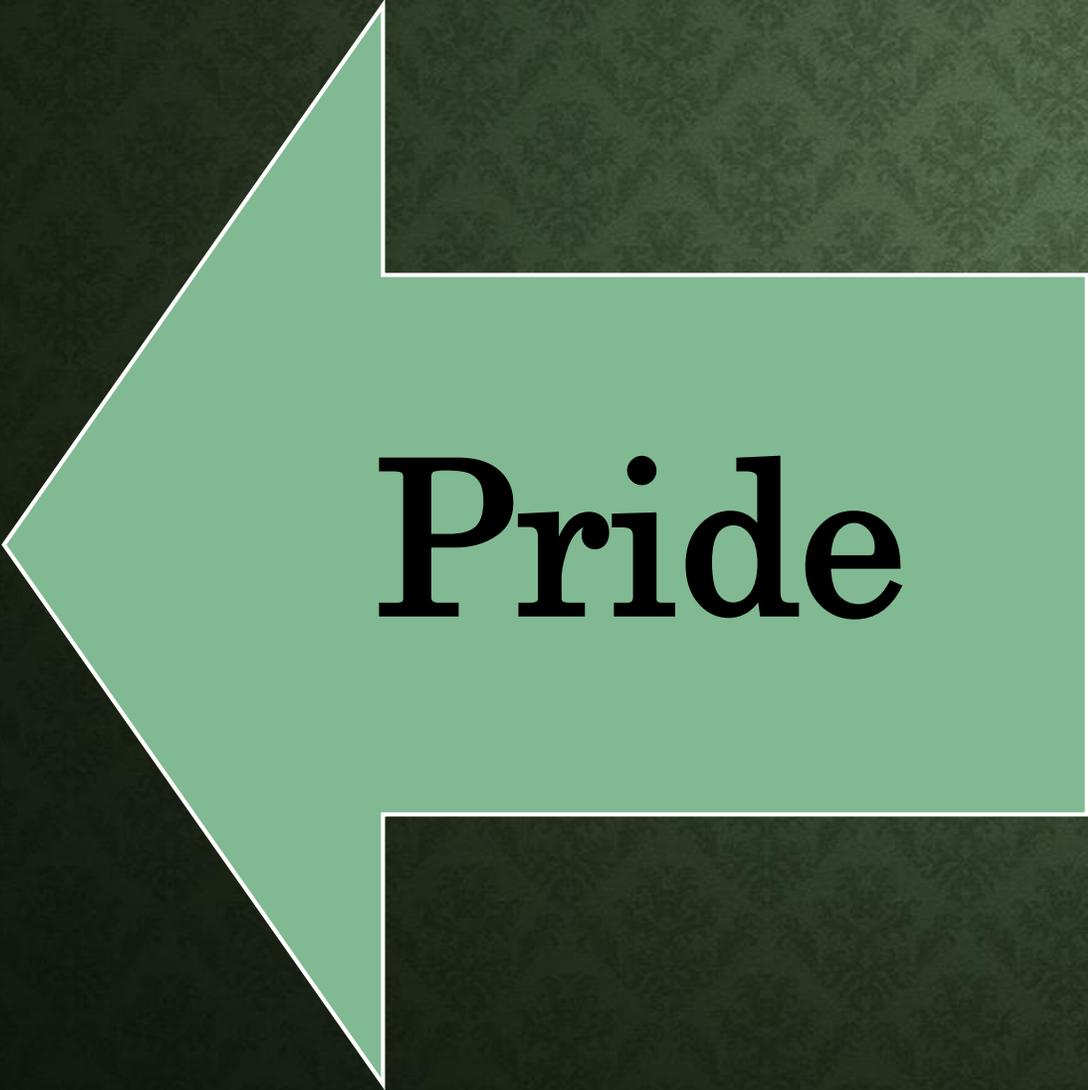
- BEING served: I don't need help, I can do it myself. I can get my own feet clean, Lord. I am good enough. (Is this Peter's attitude?)
- Serving: I don't want to serve and get my hands dirty. People need to learn to help themselves. I don't have time. Service is messy. I am good enough.

OVERCOME YOUR PRIDE AND FEAR

Fear – thinking you are NOT good enough.

- BEING served: I'm not worthy Lord. I don't deserve your help. I'm not worthy for you to wash my feet. I'm an inadequate, pitiful mess. I'm a disappointment. I'm not good enough. (Peter?)
- Serving: I can't help others because of my sin. I won't do a good job. I'm not a good enough example. I don't have anything to offer. I might get sued or accused. I'm not good enough.

OVERCOME YOUR PRIDE AND FEAR

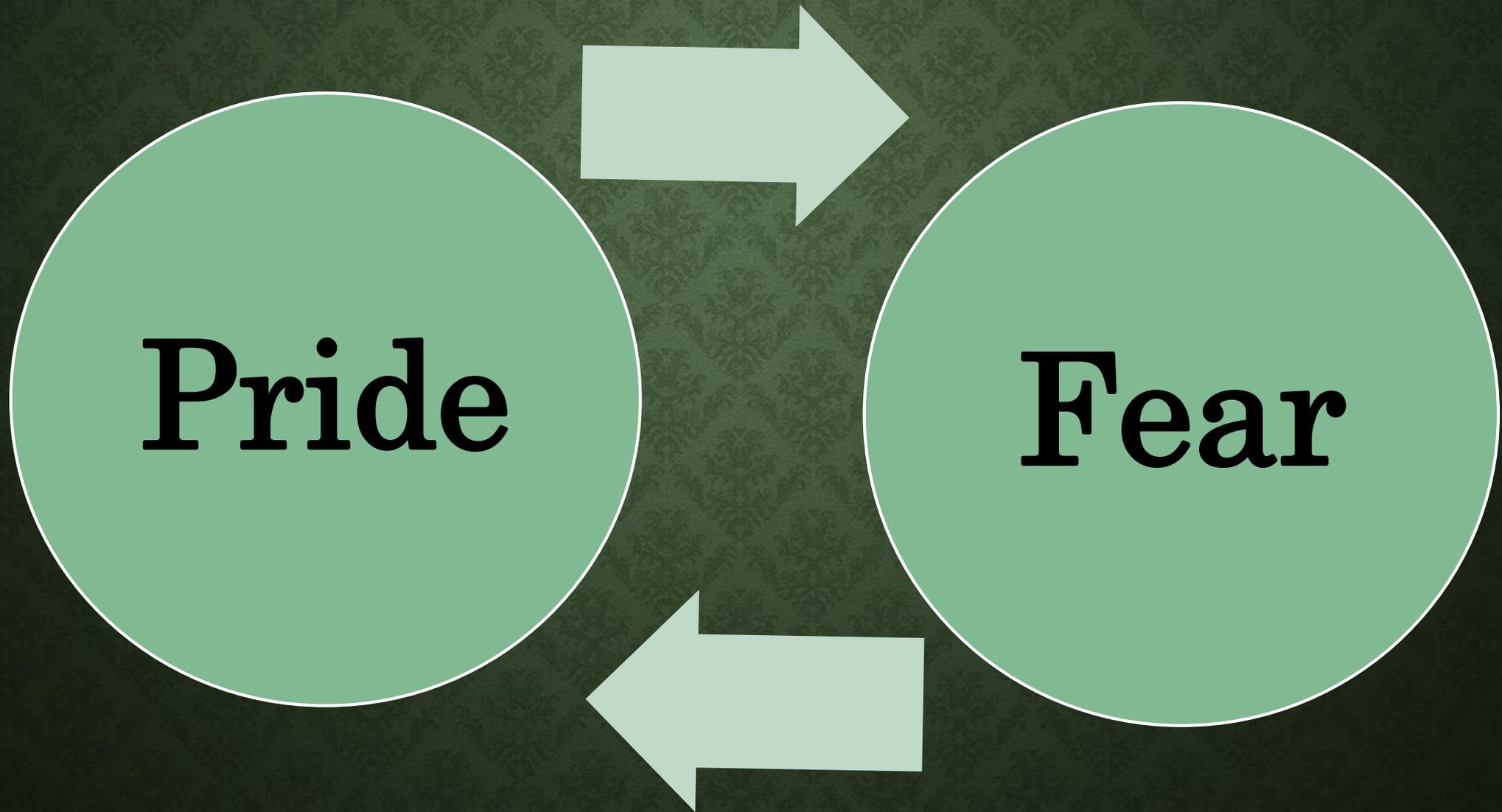


Pride



Fear

OVERCOME YOUR PRIDE AND FEAR



OVERCOME YOUR PRIDE AND FEAR (IN GOD'S POWER)

1. Pride – thinking you are good enough.
2. Fear – thinking you are NOT good enough.
3. Do we see these in Peter? Do we see these in ourselves?
4. Pride is often a mask to hide fear.
5. Examine yourself to make sure pride or fear (or both) aren't hindering service God is calling you to.
6. The physical has spiritual implications! Adjust our attitude from pride/fear to “whatever it takes!”
7. We need God's power to overcome.

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3. Volunteer to follow Jesus's example of sacrificial love.
(John 13:12-16)

VOLUNTEER TO FOLLOW JESUS'S EXAMPLE OF SACRIFICIAL LOVE

1. Following Jesus's example of service isn't "optional!"
2. "People who are obsessed with Jesus do not consider service a burden. Obsessed people take joy in loving God by loving his people." – Francis Chan (Crazy Love)
3. Dirk Willems! If we consider "everyday service" a burden, we may struggle with the kind of radical love Jesus modeled.
4. "You be you, I'll be me" (don't be a disservice!)
5. Volunteering means you don't expect anything in return, and it requires action on our part.

VOLUNTEER TO FOLLOW JESUS'S EXAMPLE OF SACRIFICIAL LOVE

Figure out what kind of sacrificial service resonates with...not in a “safe” way, but in a “stretching, God-calling you” kind of way.

- Solid Rock (Quarryville)
- Lighthouse (Oxford)
- Groceries/Food Bank
- Onesimus (Oxford)
- Home for the elderly
- Teen Moms (Wesley)
- Sponsor a Compassion child (and write letters)
- VBS (Mt. Vernon)
- Love your neighbors and enemies
- Black Rock Retreat Special Week

Any of these suggestions make you a little
uncomfortable?

That's normal...

But **DOING** the things that make us
uncomfortable is how we experience God's power
in our lives and it enables us to express God's love
to others!

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(John 13:12-16)
4. Enjoy giving and receiving God's blessing through service.
(John 13:17)

ENJOY GIVING AND RECEIVING GOD'S BLESSING THROUGH SERVICE

1. Good news! The greater the challenge – the greater the joy!
2. Hebrews 12:2-3 - “For the joy set before him he endured the cross...”
3. Suffering is temporary, joy is everlasting!
4. Mt. Vernon is great at giving/receiving God's blessing “Neighbors Multiplying God's Kindness”
5. Thank you for your service!

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4. **E** - Enjoy giving and receiving God's blessing through service.

RESPOND

1. More concerned with serving yourself and remaining comfortable?
2. Surrender and Serve!
3. Matthew 25 – “Whatever you did for the least of these...you did for me.”
4. The greatest of these is...LOVE.
5. Service is how we experience and express God’s love.