

Series: Stand Firm
Title: Part 5: Humility
Date: October 28/29, 2017
Speaker: Phil Vaughan

Big Idea: This week we wrapped up our *Stand Firm* series with a look inward. Phil taught that the way we deal with pride will determine - more than anything else - our ability to stand firm. Humility doesn't come naturally to anyone; it has to be cultivated as we stand guard against the destructive influence of pride.

Passage: 1 Peter 5:5b-11

Discuss It:

1. *Who* comes to mind when you think of the word “humble”? Why?
2. **Read 1 Peter 5:5b-6.** How would you describe the relationship between pride and humility? Are they necessarily opposites? What do you think it is about pride that God so firmly opposes?
3. In his message this past weekend, Phil said, “*The cultivation of this one specific character trait [humility] can help protect your relationships, safeguard your career, and help you experience peace and contentment more than any other trait.*” Do you agree that a person’s humility is that foundational to the course of their life? Why or why not?
4. Phil taught that our sense of pride is rooted in our identity, and that we tend to derive our identity from how we think others perceive us. Whose opinion of you most strongly impacts your sense of self-worth? Why do you think it’s so hard to let God’s love for us determine our sense of self-worth?
5. **Read 1 Peter 5:8.** Phil mentioned a few subtle symptoms that could alert us to the dangerous presence of pride in our hearts...
 - a. When the sins of other people come up in my conversations
 - b. When I respond in defensive ways to criticism
 - c. When I show preferential treatment to certain people, especially those who can benefit me
 - d. When I am hungry for attention, credit, praise and honor

Have you seen any of these warning signs in your own life lately? Or perhaps another?

6. Phil mentioned three practical steps each of us could take to cultivate humility: 1) serve others, 2) engage in conversations that increase your self-awareness, and 3) deepen your daily relationship with God. Which of these do you think would be the most helpful for you in cultivating humility? What opportunities do you see this week to take one of these steps?

Apply It:

- What is the one thing you need to take away from this study?
- What will help you remember it?
- Is there anything that needs to change in your thinking, actions, or relationships as a result?