



# The Four Faces of Pride

By Brian Childres

Our only obstacle in freedom ministry is ourselves. Genesis 3 shows us how easy it is to shift into self-sufficiency. We can choose pride, or we can humble ourselves. It is our choice. Humility releases the grace (supernatural empowerment) of God. James 4:6: “But he gives us more grace. God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” This is our primary responsibility in Freedom Ministry.

How does pride show up in our ministry? Let’s look at the 4 faces of pride and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you the specific ways in which pride will try to trip you up.

## Looking Good

There are times when you will not look like an effective minister. The truth is this, sometimes you will look foolish. Here are a couple of examples of how looking good will show up when you are ministering to another person.

1. I want to appear knowledgeable. Result: talking too much.
2. I want to look like I am an effective minister. Result: fear of failure.
3. Other: \_\_\_\_\_ (give time for responses)



## Feeling Good

There will be times when you will not experience positive emotions when trying to help another person find freedom. In fact, sometimes it will be an emotional roller coaster for you.

1. Refuse to confront or interrupt a participant when needed. Confrontation is always a leap of faith and will never feel good.
2. Sometimes a participant's story is identical to your own story. Their pain can trigger your own pain. What will you do when intense fear, anger, sadness hits you?

## Being Right

There will be times when your knowledge and experience is meaningless. Even if you do know the truth or the solution that the participant needs, they will need much more than mere head-knowledge that comes from a right answer. The good news for you is that you are clueless!

1. If you think you know what is best for them, you will fall prey to leading questions.
2. Looking at the initiate issue through the lens of right and wrong.

## Being In Control

There will be times when you will have no idea what God is doing in the participant, what the next step is, or what



is going on in the heart of the participant. God will make sure that you are not in control. This is a good thing! God desires for you to be at peace free-falling. We should always expect the unexpected.

1. If you like being in control, you will tend to try to fix the participant. You will always attempt to find a category for the person's issue.
2. You will minister to everyone with one of your favorite methods. As long as the participant fits into one of your ministry boxes, you experience the false peace of being in control. Unfortunately, this does not always serve the participant.

### **Exercise: Humble Yourself: Four Faces of Pride**

Pick two of the four faces of pride that hinder you the most during ministry encounters. Be specific in how these expressions of pride impact you and others.

Have each man take 4 minutes to journal.

#### **Stop.**

You will each have 2 minutes to share with your brothers here what you discovered.



We have discovered that men can only be spiritually healthy when they are intimately connected with other men. Once this connection takes place, spiritual growth accelerates. Husbands begin to love and serve their wives. Dads begin to spend more time with their children. The local church benefits greatly: more mature and committed leaders.

We have witnessed many churches be greatly impacted by men relationally discipling other men. The ripple effect can be huge. Whether you choose to host a Men's Bootcamp or start a new SPAR Group, spiritual renewal is just waiting to happen. Men are hungry for discipleship opportunities that make them come alive. Let us serve you!

Join us in the pursuit of authentic masculinity

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