Review Notes: Pride and Humility Sermon 3 (preached on September 26, 2010)

- Definitions
  - Pride: “Pride consists in attributing to ourselves the honor, privileges, prerogatives, rights, and power that are due to God alone. Thus, it is the very root and essence of sin because pride at its core, is idolatry of self. A proud person has put himself or herself in God’s place.” (Wayne Mack, Humility, the Forgotten Virtue)

  - Humility: “Humility, then consists in an attitude wherein we recognize our own insignificance and unworthiness before God and attribute to Him the supreme honor, praise, prerogatives, rights, privileges, worship, devotion, authority, submission, and obedience that He alone deserves. It also involves a natural, habitual tendency to think and behave in a manner that appropriately expresses this attitude. In other words, the attitude of humility is always seen in humble actions. It means having a servant’s mindset and always putting self last. (Wayne Mack, Humility, the Forgotten Virtue)

- Quotes
  - “What we suffer from today is humility in the wrong place. Modesty has moved from the organ of ambition. Modesty has settled upon the organ of conviction, where it was never meant to be. A man was meant to be doubtful about himself, but undoubting about the truth; this has been exactly reversed. Nowadays the part of a man that a man does assert is exactly the part he ought not to assert—himself. The part he doubts is exactly the part he ought not to doubt—the Divine Reason.” (G. K. Chesterton quoted in John Piper, Brothers, We are Not Professionals).

  - “One property of a humble soul is this; it will quietly bear burdens, and patiently take blows and knocks, and make no noise. A humble soul sees God through all the actions of life. Though I have fallen into a pit, it is free grace that I have not fallen into hell. God is too just to wrong me, and too gracious to harm me, and therefore I will be still and quiet; let Him do what He will with me. The humble soul will bless God under misery as well as under mercy, when God frowns as when He smiles, when He takes as when He gives, under crosses and losses as under blessings and mercies. The humble believer looks through all secondary causes, and sees the hand of God.” (Thomas Brooks, Puritan)

  - “There is only one thing I know of that crushes me to the ground and humiliates me to the dust, and that is to look at the Son of God, and especially contemplate the cross. When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of Glory died, My richest gain I count but loss And pour contempt on all my pride. Nothing else can do it. When I am a sinner…that nothing but the Son of God on the cross can save me, I’m humbled to dust…. Nothing but the cross can give us this spirit of humility.” Martyn Lloyd-Jones, quoted by C.J. Mahaney, Humility, True Greatness)

  - Every time we look at the cross Christ seems to be saying to us, ”I am here because of you. It is your sin I am bearing, your curse I am suffering, your debt I am paying, your death I am dying.’ Nothing in history or in the universe cuts us down to size like the cross. All of us have inflated views of ourselves, especially in self-righteousness, until we have visited a lace called Calvary. It is there, at the foot of the cross, that we shrink to our true size.” (John Stott, The Cross of Christ)

- Steps Toward Humility

- Step One: Review often:
  - The reality, horror, and consequences of pride, and
- The graces and rewards that accompany humility

- Step Two: Get a Big View of God—here is included the hard work of knowing him through the intellect as well as the seemingly easier work of knowing him through the emotions—this must be done since the emotions are so unsteady, untrustworthy, and often based on circumstances.
  - His Person and Character
  - His Works of Creation and Providence
  - His work in Redemptive History

- Step Three: Get a Bigger View of yourself as
  - Creature dependent on God in all ways and for all things
  - Created in the Image of God to Reflect his glory to the rest of creation
  - As a fallen sinner, broken and depraved in every faculty
    - One caveat (warning or caution) we are not talking about what the world calls self-esteem. This is pride and narcissism thinly disguised and sugar coated based on unbiblical and atheistically psychological presuppositions.

- Step Four: Get a Big View of the Cross. When is the last time you contemplated the work of God for your eternal good in the face of your incredible "badness" through the crucifixion of Christ Jesus?

- Step Five: Come back to your conversion—are you truly born again? The Person who has not yet come into a new relationship with God and been given a new heart will never be able to move toward true humility.