

THE BIG IDEA: Filters change how we see what we see.

The Take-Off

I told you last week that this series is in response to the Spirit prompting me to address the topic of filters

The comments I've received in the last week have simply confirmed it: we need this teaching!

A quick reminder of the verses that are guiding us through the series:

- **Psalm 139:23-24 (MSG)** / this is how we will begin each week, praying this together
- **John 16:13 (NIV)** / we know God will do it because it's what the Spirit does
- **Philippians 1:9-10 (NIV)** / we'll have greater insight and more discernment

Why do we need the Spirit to reveal our filters?

A few reasons:

- First, **filters change how we see what we see** (our perception of reality)
- Second, our own filters are usually invisible to us
- Third, if bad filters are left in place, we risk the danger of a blurred reality becoming a permanent reality

Last week I basically highlighted four things we need to do when it comes to filters:

- Realize we have filters
- Recognize the danger of filters
- Remove the harmful filters, and
- Replace them with helpful filters

I'm going to assume that all of us at least got that first need. It would be hard to listen to a teaching on filters and not realize you have them!

So for the sake of clarity, here's the 3-step process we want to use each week as we talk about a filter:

- **Recognize** it
- **Remove** it
- **Replace** it

Remember that this is something we need help with because our filters are invisible to us.

Left on our own, we'll rationalize how it's the other person's filter and not ours.

That's why we're going to pray **Psalm 139:23-24 (MSG)** each week. Ready? Let's pray it.

Now, let's attack the filter of PRIDE.

1. Recognize it

- Pride is one of those internal attitudes that can be hard to spot
- There is a good pride that we see in Scripture from time to time, but the vast majority of references in the Bible are to a negative, sinful pride
- A few examples:
 - 2 Chronicles 26:16 / King Uzziah became proud and thought he was above God's law / became a leper
 - Acts 12:21-23 / King Herod seeks his own glory / dies and is eaten by worms
 - Isaiah 10:12 / the King of Assyria was brought down specifically because he was proud
- Again, it can be hard to spot in ourselves. Here are some clues you may have a pride filter:
 - Malachi 3:13 / if you have a hard time receiving correction
 - 1 John 2:16 / if you talk about what YOU'VE accomplished and accumulated
- Basically, sinful pride is an excessive self-esteem
- You can imagine how this filter would change the way someone sees what they see

2. Remove it and replace it

- If we're going to have a Kingdom filter, then we're going to need to remove the filter of pride and replace it with the filter of humility
- Here are a number of passages that highlight the drastic differences between pride and humility:
 - Proverbs 11:2 / pride brings disgrace; humility brings wisdom
 - Proverbs 29:23 / pride takes us down; humility lifts us up
 - James 4:6 / pride closes God's hand against us; humility opens God's hand toward us
 - Romans 12:16 / pride isolates from people; humility associates with people

- Psalm 138:6 / pride drives God away; humility draws God near
 - Proverbs 15:25 / pride invites the Lord's destruction; humility invites the Lord's protection
 - Proverbs 16:19 / pride is never satisfied; humility is always content
- c. It seems like that list should be sobering enough for us to be motivated to remove the pride filter, but just in case you need more fire under you to remove pride and replace it with humility, here's one more
- d. **Psalm 10:4 (NIV)** / pride has a way of removing God from our lives because we think we don't need Him

3. How do we replace it?

- a. I know a lot of people think that pastors are supposed to have all the answers, but I'd rather follow the example of Jesus and close this morning out by asking some questions based on Philippians 2.
- Verse 3 / What does it look like to value others love ourselves?
 - Verse 4 / What would a body of believers look like if everyone took an interest in everyone else?
 - Verse 6 / What are we holding on to that makes it hard to serve?
 - Verse 8 / As followers of Christ, what does it look like to follow the example of Jesus?

The Landing

I told you last week that this was a series that would require grace and I'm sure you see that now.

Filters change how we see what we see, and the world looks so different when seen through humility instead of pride.

Let me close with one more example of that difference in Scripture, and then we'll pray it out.

Luke 18:9-14 (NIV)

Let's pray.