

## 引言 INTRODUCTION

The more you know, the more you should realize that there is much more you do not know. A school is a place for learning. College choice is a difficult decision for most people. I remember some words of wisdom from a former member of our church: “Put your kids in the school that pays you the most money!” I like that advice because of I am a frugal person. However, many parents hope to send their kids to a school like Harvard to complete their unfulfilled dream. It is a world-renowned college without question. The alumni and faculty of Harvard consist of many Nobel Prize winners, U.S. Presidents, billionaires and other distinguished people. The school was founded in 1636 as the oldest institution for higher learning in the U.S. Its original goal was actually to train pastors. Through the centuries, Harvard expands to other academic fields. A new school emblem was introduced with those changes. In 1692, the motto of the original Harvard College was Veritas Christo et Ecclesiae, which means “Truth for Christ and the Church.” The logo shows three books, one of which is flipped face-down to symbolize the limitation of human knowledge. However, in recent decades, that book was turned face up to represent the unlimited capacity of the human mind. The slogan was also shortened to become simply Veritas – “Truth.” The search for knowledge is a noble task. However, learning can easily lead to pride when we shift the focus to ourselves. Discovery in any subject is a process to know about God and His creation. Today, we will discuss humility from Proverbs. Humility is the opposite of pride. While pride makes us the center of attention, humility causes us to submit before God. It helps us realize that we need God. We are nothing without Him.

## 解釋 EXPLANATION

## 1. 驕傲的人被神厭惡 The Proud are Despised by God

First of all, Proverbs tells us that the proud are despised by God. Look at 6:16-19: **16 There are six things the Lord hates, seven that are detestable to him: 17 haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, 18 a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, 19 a false witness who pours out lies and a man who stirs up dissension among brothers.** The format of “six or seven” is a special style in Hebrew poetry. We use a similar manner of speech in language. For instance, a mechanic tells you it will take an hour or two to fix your car. Or someone says there were about one to two thousand people at a concert. Those numbers are estimates. The expression of “six or seven” here is a parallelism to mean numerous. Those seven items are examples of what God despises. “Hates” and “detestable” are strong emotions. God does not only prefer people not to have those attitudes and actions. God despises them! The first item on the list is “haughty eyes.” We can picture a prideful person whose eyes are on the forehead. He looks down on the people around him. The Chinese have a similar idiom that says: “Every person is a dwarf in a dog’s eyes.” It is not a nice way to describe an arrogant person. But you get the idea. Such person elevates himself above others. He thinks that he has it all and he can do it all. Therefore, he does not feel that he needs God. Pride is at the core of every sin. Many people lie to protect themselves. Others steal and cheat for their own gain. Even Satan stumbled because of his pride. Most Bible scholars agree that Isaiah 14:12-15 is an account of Satan’s fall: **12 How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have**

been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! 13 You said in your heart, “I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. 14 I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.” 15 But you are brought down to the grave, to the depths of the pit. Satan was originally an angel created by God. The Lord gave him beauty, wisdom and power. But Satan was not content to be a servant. There are five “I will” in this passage. Satan wants to be equal with God. Such pride compelled Satan to rebel against God. A leader of fellow angels became the ruler of devils. The result was God’s condemnation. Doesn’t that arrogant ambition sound familiar? Adam sinned because of it too. Satan enticed Adam to betray God. He whispered to Adam: “Look how cruel God is. He withholds some benefits not to share with you. Just take a bite of that fruit, then you can be like Him!” Since then, Satan has been using pride to tempt us. Pride causes us to make ourselves the boss. “This is my career, my possessions, my preferences and my way. I can do whatever I want! Do not confine me to any rule and convention. Do not label me as a man or a woman. I can call myself whatever I want. Not even God can bother me.” It is a scary thing when a person has no fear for God. There will be no standard to follow. People just do things as they wish. God despises the proud because they reject God. But God’s authority can never be overruled. God can humble the proud just like how He dealt with Satan and Adam. People either acknowledge God as the Lord of lords in this life, or they will be asked to bow down before His judgment throne. God deserves all the glory.

## 2. 謙卑的人聽從指導 The Humble Desire Instructions

The proud follow their own way. In comparison, the humble desires instructions. Let us look at Proverbs 13:10 – **Pride only breeds quarrels, but wisdom is found in those who take advice.** One way that the pride cause conflict is through argument. They are more eager to speak than to listen. They want to prove that they are right and others are wrong. Whereas, the humble will ponder on other’s instructions. They discern between subjective views and objective facts. They are not quick to get mad and defend for themselves even when being criticized. They understand that there is always room for improvement. I have lived long enough to realize that I can never please every person. Also, some people like to focus on others’ shortcomings than strengths. The wisdom is to distinguish between unreasonable expectations and positive suggestions. A good assumption is that people want me to do better. The wisest response to criticism is to say thank-you with a smile. You respect people’s input. You resist the temptation to argue and hurt the relationship. If we listen to men’s instructions, how much more should we desire God’s instructions? Proverbs 3:5-6 is a well-known passage to most Christians: **5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; 6 in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.** We have to trust God instead of our own little human wisdom. We have to trust God completely, not half-heartedly. We have to trust God in all things, not just certain things. If we trust God in our study, then we should do so in our career and family life too. If we believe God in good times, we should also believe Him in our bad times. Verse 6 says God will make our path straight if we acknowledge Him in everything. The humble will look for God’s instructions. God can speak to us through the Bible, people’s counsel and our circumstance. When Jesus called Peter to be a disciple, He taught Peter a good lesson about following His instructions. Peter was a fisherman by trade. Jesus went to find Peter by a lake shore. He and his buddies caught nothing the previous night. Jesus asked Peter to set sail and cast his net. It was not the right time to fish. I would be grumbling in my heart if I were Peter: “Who

is this carpenter turned rabbi to tell me how to fish?” But Peter followed Jesus’ instruction anyway. You know the result. Peter and his partners got so many fish that the nets were about to burst and their boats nearly sank. Peter immediately kneeled before Jesus, saying: **“Go way from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!”** (Luke 5:8) At that moment, Peter realized that Jesus had a knowledge higher than his expertise and experience in fishing. A self-confident fisherman thus became a humble follower of Jesus. Of course, Peter still had to stumble in many ways, including denying Jesus three times, before he could be used by God. We live in a culture that rejects the existence of absolute truth. The world convinces us to trust our feelings. Just do whatever you consider as right. There are numerous self-help experts who say that we can achieve anything only if we try harder. Those attitudes make their way into the church too. Just mind your own business. It becomes offensive to define certain behaviors as sins. Not following God’s instructions will lead to disobedience. Why read the Bible and pray to God when I can go independent? God wants us to see ourselves from His point of view. We are decent people who obey the law, work hard in our jobs and love our family. We have certain talents and knowledge. However, we are also sinners by birth. We are destined to perish without God’s mercy. The humble understand that they need Jesus to enter into the doorway of salvation. But they also need God’s help every day to walk in the right path. His instructions are not second opinions, but our compass for life.

### 3. 謙卑的人讓人表揚 The Humble Defer Praise to Others

The proud are despised by God but the humble desire instructions. Let us consider the third thing: the humble defer praise to others. Proverbs 27:2 says: **Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; someone else, and not your own lips.** The humble will wait for others to evaluate the things they do. “Another” and “someone else” refer to complete strangers. The assumption is that the humble perform good deeds out of sincerity. In other words, they are not pretending to attract people’s attention. If so, then the praise from strangers will be objective and honest. Have you met people who cannot wait to show off themselves? “Let me tell you what new car I just bought.” “I was hoping to get a 3% raise. My boss gave me 7% because he said the company cannot survive without me.” “I think my grandchildren are the cutest in the world.” They expect people to react with: “Wow! Good job! You’re the best!” The proud crave after flattering comments. They live by popularity ratings like the politicians. But the humble do good works from their hearts, whether or not people are watching. Jesus teaches us in Matthew 6:1 that: **“Be careful not to do your ‘acts of righteousness’ before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.”** The “acts of righteousness” are expressions of mercy to the needy. For example, you donate money or goods to the charity. Men’s praise is immediate but also short-lived. But God’s reward is long-lasting and eternal. Longing for God’s reward will change our attitude. Once a seminary professor met a janitor in the hallway. He thanked the man for keeping the campus clean and tidy. The cleaning worker responded: “I thank God for allowing me to contribute something for His Kingdom.” That is a correct perspective! He did everything to serve God. The Lord will remember his faithfulness. I can think of many unsung heroes in our church who take care of big and small matters. They decorate the sanctuary, wash dishes, clean bathrooms, pay bills, repair stuff and even pick up geese droppings! Do not worry if I forget to mention other contributions you make. God knows every good work you do. He will give you His approval. Another important thing we need to learn is how to handle people’s compliments. Proverbs 27:21 tells us: **The crucible for silver and the**

**furnace for gold, but man is tested by the praise he receives.** The first half of the verse describes the refinement process for precious metals. The ores are heated to a high temperature. The impurities are either burned away or poured off. What is left will be fine silver and gold. A proper reaction to people's praise can also polish a person's character. The proud will enjoy smooth talk even if it is fake. The humble will resist the temptation of self-boasting. The result is spiritual maturity. Once a person said to a pastor at the end of a church service: "Thank you, pastor. That was a great message." The pastor replied: "Satan has already told me so before you said it." Well, he did not have to be so blunt and cool. You are very patient and gracious to me. Even when I preach a boring sermon or stumble in my pronunciation, you still compliment about my tie. When people told me they liked the message, I would usually react: "Thank you. Praise the Lord." Perhaps next time I should add: "Which parts edify you the most? How can I do better?" It is natural to feel happy and satisfied at positive comments. But your reaction to people's praise reflects your relationship with God too. Do not be quick to pat yourself on the shoulder, even though you have some success. No matter how big the contribution is, you are only a channel of God's blessing to those you serve.

## 結論 CONCLUSION

Humility causes us to submit before God. Whatever we have, be it talents, appearance or achievements, are all gifts from God. If every provision is out of God's grace, we should not brag about ourselves. All we can take pride in is that God saves us and uses us. It is just like Jeremiah 9:23-24 say – **23 This is what the Lord says: "Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom or the strong man boast of his strength or the rich man boast of his riches, 24 but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight," declares the Lord.** God knows us even before we exist. He sent His Son to look for us. Jesus is the ultimate model for our humility. God became a man. Jesus willingly served people like a servant. He died the most despicable and gruesome way on the cross for our sins. But He rose on the third day. God elevated Jesus from the bottommost pit of the earth to the highest throne in heaven. Jesus thus restored all the glory and honor that belongs to Him. For any praise that we may receive from people, Jesus deserves all the credits. For any unfair treatment we may get, Jesus tasted it all. He will give us a fair evaluation in eternity. Everything we have is from Him. Everything we do in this world is by His grace and for His glory.

## 引言 INTRODUCTION

你知道的越多，你就越應該意識到你不知道的還有很多。學校是追求知識的地方。對於大多數人來說，選擇大學是一個困難的決定。我記得我們教會以前的一位會友說過的一句有智慧的話：「你就把孩子送到給你最多錢的學校！」我喜歡這個建議，因為我是一個小氣鬼。但是，有不少的家長希望將孩子送到像哈佛那樣的學校來完成他們未實現的夢想。毫無疑問，那是一所世界知名的大學。哈佛大學的校友和老師中有許多諾貝爾獎的得獎人、美國總統、億萬富翁和其他傑出人士。這所學校成立於 1636 年，是美國最古老的高等教育機構。它最初的目標實際上是培訓牧師。幾個世紀以來，哈佛擴展到其他學術領域。這些變化導致學校設計了新的校徽。在 1692 年，最初的哈佛學院的校訓是 *Veritas Christo et Ecclesiae*，意思是「基督和教會的真理」。當時的標誌展示了三本書，其中一本是蓋起來的，象徵著人類知識的有性。然而，近幾十年來，那本書被返過來，代表人類思維的無限能力。學校的校訓也被縮短為簡單的 *Veritas*，就是「真理」。尋求知識是一項崇高的任務。然而，當我們將注意力轉移到自己身上時，知識很容易導致驕傲。任何學科的探索都是了解神及祂的創造的過程。今天，我們會從箴言討論謙卑。謙卑是驕傲的相反。驕傲使我們成為關注的焦點，而謙卑使我們順服神。謙卑的心幫助我們意識到我們需要神。沒有神，我們什麼都不是。

## 解釋 EXPLANATION

1. 驕傲的人被神厭惡 *The Proud are Despised by God*

首先，箴言告訴我們，驕傲的人是被神厭惡的。看 6:16-19: **16 耶和華所恨惡的有六樣，連他心所憎惡的共有七樣：17 就是高傲的眼，撒謊的舌，流無辜人血的手，18 圖謀惡計的心，飛跑行惡的腳，19 吐謊言的假見證，並弟兄中布散分爭的人。**六、七樣東西的形容是希伯來詩歌所獨特的寫作方式。我們在日常用語中也使用類似的形容。例如，修車的技工告訴你需要一兩個小時修你的車。或者有人說一場音樂會有大約一到兩千人出席。這些數字是估計值。這裡的「六樣或七樣」是平行的表達，意思是許多。這七樣東西是神所厭惡事情的例子。「恨惡」和「憎惡」是強烈的情緒。神不僅不喜歡人有那些態度和行為。神厭惡那些事情！清單上的第一項是「高傲的眼」。我們可以想像一個驕傲的人的眼睛好像是長在額頭上的。他看不起周圍的人。中文有一句類似的形容說：「狗眼看人低。」這句話挺難聽，但我們都明白它的意思。這樣的人把自己抬高在別人之上。他認為他擁有一切，他也可以做到這一切。因此，他不覺得自己需要神。驕傲是一切罪的根源。很多人說謊是為了保護自己。也有人為了自己的利益而偷竊和欺騙。甚至撒旦也是因為他的驕

傲而跌倒的。大多數聖經學者都同意以賽亞書 14:12-15 是撒旦墮落的記載：12 明亮之星，早晨之子啊，你何竟從天墜落？你這攻敗列國的何竟被砍倒在地上？13 你心裡曾說：「我要升到天上；我要高舉我的寶座在神眾星以上；我要坐在聚會的山上，在北方的極處。14 我要升到高雲之上；我要與至上者同等。」15 然而，你必墜落陰間，到坑中極深之處。撒旦原本是神創造的天使。主賜給他美麗、智慧和力量。但撒但並不甘心於做一個僕人。這段話有五個「我要」。撒旦想要與神平等。這樣驕傲的心態催使撒但背叛神。一位眾天使的領袖成為了惡魔的統治者。結果他被神定罪。這種傲慢的野心是不是似曾相識？亞當也因此而犯罪。撒旦引誘亞當背叛神。他對亞當說：「你看神多麼殘酷。祂保留了一些好處不與你分享。咬一口那果子，你就可以像祂了！」從此之後，撒但一直用驕傲來試探我們。驕傲使我們把自己當老闆。「這是我的事業、我的財產、我的喜好和我的方式。我可以為所欲為！不要將我限制在任何規則和傳統之中。不要定我為男人或是女人。我喜歡叫什麼就是什麼。連神也不能干涉我。」當一個人不敬畏神時，那是一件可怕的事情。他便沒有標準可循。人們只是隨心所欲地做事。神厭惡驕傲的人，因為他們拒絕神。但神的權柄永遠不會被推翻。神能使驕傲的人謙卑下來，就像祂對付撒旦和亞當一樣。人們要不然在今生承認神是萬主之主，要不然被逼跪在神的審判寶座前。神配得一切的榮耀。

## 2. 謙卑的人聽從指導 The Humble Desire Instructions

驕傲的人我行我素。相比之下，謙卑的人聽從指導。讓我們看看箴言 13:10 – 驕傲只啟爭競；聽勸言的，卻有智慧。驕傲的人引起衝突的一個原因是產生爭論。他們只願意說而不願意聽。他們只想證明自己是對的，而其他人是錯的。然而謙卑的人會考慮別人的指導。他們能夠分辨主觀的觀點和客觀的事實。即使受到批評，他們也不會很快生氣並為自己辯護。他們明白自己總有改進的餘地。我活了那麼久，終於明白到我無法討好每一個人。另外，有些人喜歡釘住別人的缺點而不是優點。智慧使我們區分不合理的期望和積極的建議。一個很好的假設是人們希望我做得更好。對批評最有智慧的回應是帶著微笑說謝謝。你尊重別人的意見。你抗拒爭吵和破壞關係的試探。如果我們聽從人的指導，我們豈不是更應該聽從神的指導呢？箴言 3:5-6 是大多數基督徒都熟悉的一段話：5 你要專心仰賴耶和華，不可倚靠自己的聰明，6 在你一切所行的事上都要認定他，他必指引你的路。我們必須倚靠神，而不是我們自己的小聰明。我們必須完全相信神，而不是三心二意。我們必須在所有事情上信靠神，而不僅僅是某些事情。如果我們在學業上信靠神，那麼我們在事業和家庭生活中也應該這樣做。如果我們在順境時相信神，那麼我們在逆境中也應該相信祂。第 6 節說，如果我們在每一件事上都認定神，祂就會使我們的道路通暢。謙卑的人會遵守神的指導。神可以通過聖經、別人的建議和我們的遭遇對我們說話。當耶穌呼召彼得做門徒時，祂給彼得一個很好的教訓，就是要聽從祂的指導。彼得是個漁夫。那天耶穌去湖邊找彼得。在前一天晚上，彼得和他的伙伴們一

無所獲。耶穌吩咐彼得開船撒網。彼得知道那不是打魚的好時機。如果我是彼得，我會在心裡抱怨：「這個木匠變成老師的人是誰，祂有什麼資格告訴我如何打魚的？」但彼得還是聽從了耶穌的指導。你們都知道結果。彼得和他的伙伴們撈到很多的魚，甚至網都快要裂開了，他們的船也幾乎沉下去。彼得立刻跪在耶穌面前，說：「主啊！離開我，我是個罪人！」（路加福音 5:8）那一刻，彼得意識到耶穌的知識比他在捕魚方面的專長和經驗更高。一個自信的漁夫因此成為耶穌謙卑的跟隨者。當然，彼得在被神使用之前，仍然要接受許多的磨練，包括三次否認耶穌。我們生活在一個否定絕對真理的文化之中。這個世界告訴我們相信自己的感覺，做你認為正確的事。有許多自學的專家說，只要再努力一點，我們什麼事都能做到。這樣的心態也進入了教會。你別去管別人的事。將某些行為定義為罪是令人反感的。不聽從神的指導會引起不順服。當我可以靠自己時，為什麼還要讀聖經並向神禱告？神希望我們從祂的角度來看自己。我們都是守法、勤奮工作、熱愛家庭的良好公民。我們有一定的才能和知識。然而，我們生下來都是罪人。沒有神的憐憫，我們注定要滅亡。謙卑的人明白他們需要靠耶穌進入救恩之門。但他們知道每天也需要神的幫助才能走在正確的道路上。神的指示不是可有可無的意見，而是我們人生的指南針。

### 3. 謙卑的人讓人表揚 The Humble Defer Praise to Others

驕傲的人被神厭惡，而謙卑的人聽從指導。讓我們考慮第三方面：謙卑的人讓人表揚。箴言 27:2 說：要別人誇獎你，不可用口自誇；等外人稱讚你，不可用嘴自稱。謙卑的人會讓其他人評價他們所做的事情。「別人」和「外人」是指陌生人。假設這些謙卑的人是出於真誠行善。換句話說，他們不是裝出來吸引人們的注意。如果是這樣的話，那麼來自陌生人的讚賞應該是客觀和真誠的。你遇到過迫不及待炫耀自己的人嗎？「讓我告訴你我剛買了什麼新車。」「我希望能加薪百分之 3。老闆竟然給了我百分之 7，因為他說公司沒有我就活不下去。」「我覺得我的孫子孫女是世界上最可愛的小孩。」他們希望別人的反應是：「哇！做得好！你最棒！」驕傲的人渴望聽到奉承的話。他們像政治家一樣等著外人給他們打分數。但謙卑的人是發自內心地行善，不管是否有人注意。耶穌在馬太福音 6:1 教導我們：「你們要小心，不可將善事行在人的面前，故意叫他們看見，若是這樣，就不能得你們天父的賞賜了。」這些「善事」是指對有需要的人表示憐憫。例如，你向慈善機構捐贈金錢或物品。人的讚美是即時的，但也是短暫的。但神的獎賞是持久和永恆的。追求神的獎賞會改變我們的心態。有一次，一位神學院教授在走廊上遇到了一位清潔工人。他感激那個人把校園打掃得很乾淨。那個工人回答說：「我感謝神讓我為祂的國度付出一點貢獻。」那是一個正確的觀點！他所做的一切都是為了事奉神。神必然會記念他的忠心。我們的教會裡也有不少無名英雄，他們處理大大小小的事情。他們裝飾大堂、洗碗、打掃廁所、支付賬單、修理東西、甚至撿鵝糞！如果我忘記提及你所作出的其他貢獻，請不要擔心。神知道你所做的每一件美事。

祂必然會記念。另一件我們需要學習的事情是如何處理別人的讚賞。箴言 27:21 告訴我們：**鼎為煉銀，爐為煉金，人的稱讚也試煉人。**這節經文的前半部分描述貴重金屬的提煉過程。礦物被加熱到高溫。雜質會被燒掉，或是被倒掉。剩下的將是純正的金屬。對人們讚美的適當回應也可以磨練一個人的品格。驕傲的人喜歡別人的誇獎，就算是拍馬屁的假話。謙卑的人會抗拒自我膨脹的誘惑，結果是靈性成熟。有一次，有人在崇拜結束後對一位牧師說：「謝謝你，牧師。你今天的信息講得很好。」牧師回答說：「在你說之前撒但早已經告訴我了。」他也不需要那麼坦率和酷。感謝你們對我的耐心和恩慈。就算我當天的講道很枯燥或是我的咬字不清，還是有人會稱讚我的領帶。當別人告訴我他喜歡某一次的信息時，我通常的反應是：「謝謝你。感謝主。」也許下次我應該追問：「哪些部分最能啟發你？我有什麼地方需要改進的？」當你聽到正面的評語而感到高興和滿足是很自然的。但是你對人們讚美的反應反映出你與神的關係。即使你獲得一點點成就，你也不應該自誇。無論你的貢獻有多大，你都只是神祝福你所服事的人的一個管道而已。

## 結論 CONCLUSION

謙卑的心幫助我們意識到我們需要神。我們擁有的一切，無論是聰明才智、外表還是成就，都是神的賞賜。如果一切都是出於神的恩典，我們就不應該自誇。我們唯一可以誇口的是，神拯救了我們並使用我們。就像耶利米書 9:23-24 所說的：**23 耶和華如此說：「智慧人不要因他的智慧誇口，勇士不要因他的勇力誇口，財主不要因他的財物誇口。24 誇口的卻因他有聰明，認識我是耶和華，又知道我喜悅在世上施行慈愛、公平，和公義，以此誇口。這是耶和華說的。」**在我們存在之前神就已經認識我們。祂差遣祂的兒子來尋找我們。耶穌是我們謙卑的榜樣。神成為人。耶穌甘願像僕人一樣為人服務。祂為我們的罪死在十字架上，以最卑微、最可怕的方式而死。但祂在第三天復活了。神將耶穌從地底的深坑提升到天上最高的寶座。耶穌因此恢復了所有屬於祂的榮耀和尊貴。無論我們從人那裡得到任何的稱讚，耶穌都配得所有的功勞。我們可能得到的不公平的待遇，耶穌都嚐過了。祂會在永恆裡給我們公正的評價。我們擁有的一切都來自祂。我們在這個世界上所做的所有都是出於祂的恩典和為了祂的榮耀。