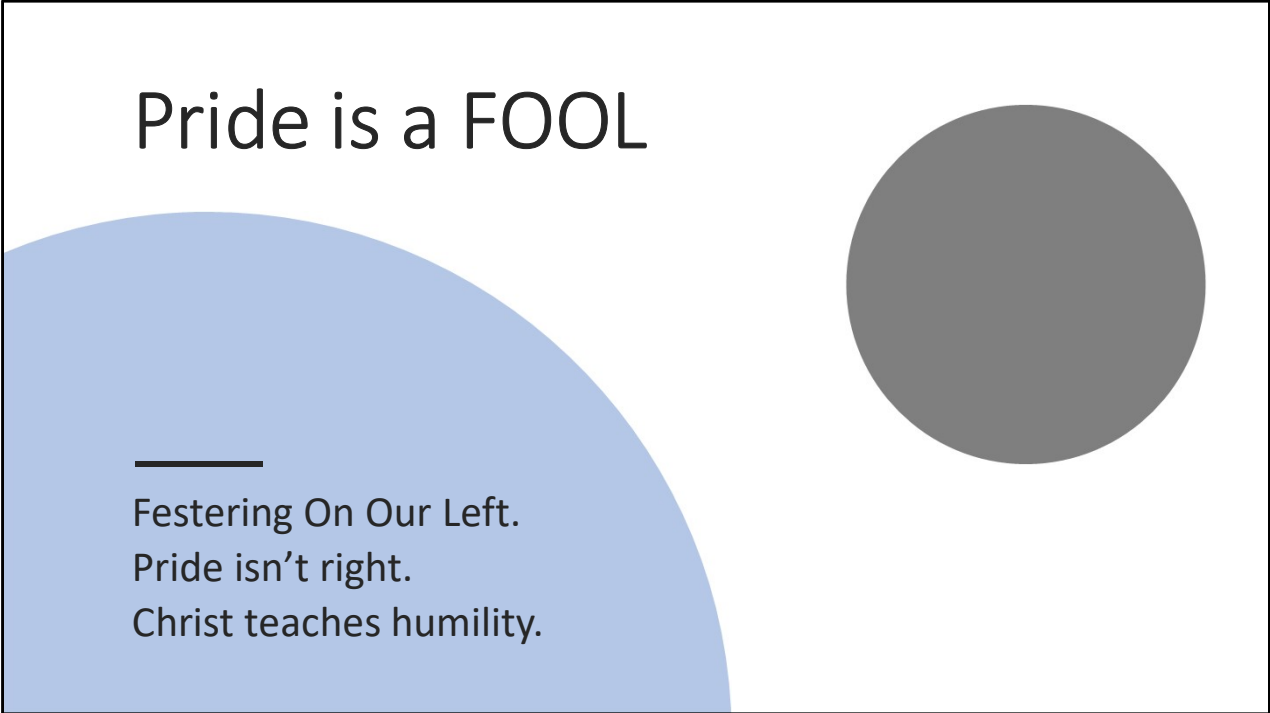


Permission to Change

Great
Expectations

Jesus read the scripture of the prophet, and sat down. All eyes were upon him...the people had great expectations of him. He taught as one with authority. He taught in parables they could understand. He spoke God's grace to poor, the blind, the sick, the leper, the widows, the outcast. Jesus was making waves by sharing God's love. But the people of his hometown asked – "Isn't this Joseph's son?" They did not think he could be something other than a second rate carpenter's son.

Pride is a FOOL



—
Festering On Our Left.
Pride isn't right.
Christ teaches humility.

People don't change all that easily or quickly. What is need of change we don't always see – or desire to change. Its simple for others to look at our lives and criticize and show us what needs fixed....but we are human and have that inner-monster called Pride festering on our left shoulder – I say left shoulder because experience and more importantly the Bible tells me that pride isn't right. That it's left over from the fall of human kind – festering as a temptation to choose evil.

So pride is sitting on our left shoulder telling us to be on top. To be on top means others must be less than, lower than we are. We wouldn't be ruler of all that we see if others are better - that means we aren't best. We all suffer from pride – at least a little. What about when you rebelled as a teenager or young adult? You did things you knew were crossing the line – you knew you were in the wrong, but didn't care.

Let me go back to the idea of what experience teaches – that people don't change much or quickly. I think it's our pride, that summarizes that into "don't expect people to change." and furthermore – treat others as if they aren't going to change. We have great expectations of ourselves and others. We want to do our best and have others do their best as well. However, we don't always, and others don't always.

Pride and Prejudice



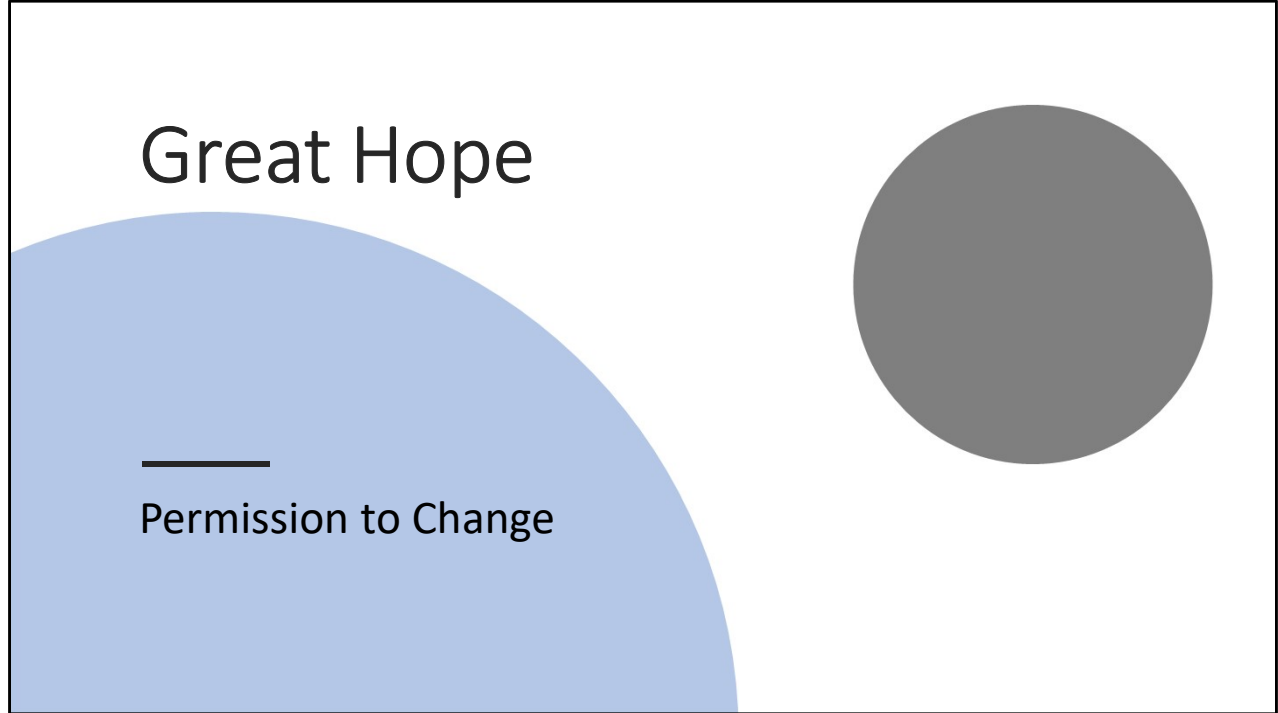
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Permission to Change

We are guilty not only of the pride of rebellion at times. We also suffer from the pride of saying – well we did it, why can't they.

We may think that if someone is in church, they need fixed...to be perfect from the time we meet them.

In the book – Jane Austen learns the error of making hasty judgments and comes to appreciate the difference between the superficial and the essential.

We, like she, must vocally and specifically give people permission to change – share our great expectations for them – name the goal, pray for God's guidance and help, and work together patiently.



Even in the midst of helping or being helped by others myself to change – I have GREAT HOPE that people can change for the better. Not by themselves most of the time – and not without diligence and some failure. We all need near constant reminders.

Let me go back to my statement that “people can change for the better.” We all can. Even if we don’t have glaring errors in our way of life – our attitudes toward others who do is usually the first place we need to change our heart for the better. I have seen people change both drastically for the better. People can change habits, attitudes, life-styles because of the God’s involvement, because of patient loving people who depended on God’s power and allow others permission to change.

We need to give others hope. People that don’t have it right, or easy, or all together. They have already been told by the world, or by stereotypes, or by well-meaning people that they can’t change or don’t have permission to change.

Make your own Milestones

Permission to Change



Both classic books - Great Expectations and Pride and Prejudice taught us about wealth and poverty, love and rejection, and the eventual triumph of good over evil.

We can help each other go off in a different direction than the world expects from what they see. We can create our own milestones and say – this – right here, when I came to this church and found my new friends Mr. and Mrs. Garrett, or Mr. Pratt, or Miss Jay – this is where I struck off on a new path that led me closer to God.