

PRIDE

Native pride seems to be a theme the past few years in the State of Alaska. An important aspect of native identity is your heritage. The way hunting, gathering, customs, traditions, and respect is portrayed in a native community is essential in addressing the native self image. Many have lost this self image due to a number of western influences. In this case native pride is the feeling of self respect and personal worth. In terms of Christianity, pride is viewed as unreasonable and excessive self esteem. Pride is a sin. Christians must be mindful of the trap pride can lead towards.

Mentor

You may have witnessed or experienced pride in your life. Share with your mentee the experiences you faced. What are indicators of pride? What are the challenges? How do you address pride with someone? These few questions will give you an idea in sharing with your mentee on the issue.

Biblical foundation

- Psalms 10:4, 'In his pride the wicked does not seek him; in all his thoughts there is no room for God.' (NIV)
- Matthew 23:12, 'For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.' (NIV)
- Romans 12:16, 'Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.' (NIV)

Cultural

Being proud in a small community was shunned. Many native people lived in harmony, but someone would express prideful behavior either to be recognized in the community or oblivious of their own behavior. Many people knew expressing pride was not a normal behavior.

Humbleness was the quality every person aspired too. During the arrival of western influences of technology, many men began to hunt for themselves, not the community. For example, the introduction of the freezer brought self awareness of providing for one's family, not the community. The idea of going hunting for oneself was a huge shift from community oriented thoughts, thus increasing the factors for pride.

Potential activity

A possible way to determine if your mentee has issues with pride is to ask a few questions. Have your mentee write down the questions and write his thoughts. Possible questions may include but are not limited to;

- What do you think of material goods?
 - Computers
 - Head sets
 - Cell phone
- How do you react when you have accomplished something?
 - A major chore at home
 - Homework
 - Work
- Do you feel you are better in certain activities than others?
 - Sports
 - Academics
 - Computer games
 - Board games
 - Problem solving