



**GraceWorld**  
OUTREACH CHURCH

# Leadership Kryptonite

Core Value: Humility

***"Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall." Proverbs 16:18 (ESV)***

"Everything rises and falls on leadership." Maxwell calls it an irrefutable law of leadership. Every win or every loss will always be diagnosed back to one thing—leadership.

We spend a lot of time learning the principles of leadership, but what about the pitfalls? These pitfalls can break momentum, destroy a team, or turn a winning culture into a losing one.

It's leadership kryptonite.

As the original comic book superhero, there's no denying that Superman is the G.O.A.T. Faster than a speeding bullet, more powerful than a locomotive, able to leap tall buildings in a single bound—unless he encounters Kryptonite. It is his one nemesis, bringing the superhero down to zero.

I've watched it at work in some great teams—church teams, sports teams, corporate teams, who seemed unstoppable. They posted rapid growth, exponential profits, back-to-back championships, yet their success couldn't be sustained. They encountered leadership kryptonite and fell hard.

**Success that cannot be sustained is not true success!**

## Leadership Kryptonite #1: Pride

There is a reason pride occupies the top spot in the seven deadly sins listed in Proverbs chapter 6. It's the most potent kryptonite of all.

Pride caused the devil to be cast out of heaven. Pride was the root of the fall in the garden. Pride was the reason for the tower of Babel. It was Saul's downfall and David's attempt to cover up his sin.

Pride has a deadly track record throughout scripture and history...and it would love to add you to its scorecard.

It doesn't matter if you are in a winning season or persevering through a loss, one thing is certain: pride is knocking at your door seeking to bring you down. How do I know? Because it never goes away.

Do any of these ring true for you?

- Is it hard for you to apologize when you're wrong?
- Is it difficult to celebrate others' wins?
- Do you struggle to build deep and genuine relationships?
- Do you like to argue?
- Have you ever been called hardheaded or stubborn?
- Do you avoid admitting defeat?
- Are you reluctant to show vulnerability?
- Do you find it challenging to ask for help?
- Is it hard to be honest with yourself and others?
- Do you resist learning new things to avoid looking ignorant?
- Do you feel a sense of satisfaction when others fail?
- Are you ever domineering or controlling?
- Have you ever cheated to avoid losing?
- Do you embellish your past?
- Do you have to have the final word?
- Have you bought something you couldn't afford because it made you look good?
- Are you too focused on yourself?
- Do you avoid people who challenge you or receiving feedback?

If you have a few check marks above—pride is knocking.

# Three Ways Pride Destroys a Leadership Culture

## 1. Pride Creates Distance

It starts subtly. You don't agree with a decision or misjudge a situation. Perhaps it was a loss you took pretty hard. You begin thinking your way might be better. You feel your perspective is being ignored or you are being overlooked. Soon you've taken up an offense and a fracture starts to form. The fracture becomes isolation.

Solomon stated, ***“A brother offended is more unyielding than a strong city” (Proverbs 18:19).***

The enemy loves distance; it gives him room to work!

## 2. Distance Becomes Division

When I first arrived at Grace World, one of the weaknesses our leadership team diagnosed was “siloeled ministries.” Ministries stayed in their own tribe and often fought one another for resources. This is the result of isolation—groups and factions within an organization form loyalties within one another at the expense of the whole.

Jesus said, ***“Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and no city or house divided against itself will stand” (Matthew 12:25).***

## 3. Division Leads to Destruction

Satan saw himself as equal with God. He took up an offense, believed he was right, and his pride brought him down. Likewise, Absalom saw himself as equal to his father David. He was offended with the king and created a faction in the kingdom. His pride ultimately hung him from a tree. Pride always leads to destruction.

## How Do We Overcome Our Pride?

Humility is the Antidote

***“Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for ‘God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble’” (1 Peter 5:5).***

If pride is toxic to leadership, humility is health to it. It’s the antidote to pride.

## **Three Ways to Grow in Humility**

### **1. Consider Christ**

***“Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men” (Philippians 2:4–7).***

Consider the example of Christ and evaluate personal attitudes and actions against Him. Then invite the Holy Spirit to work in you and receive His grace to become more like Jesus.

How often do you evaluate your attitudes and actions against the example of Christ, and are you inviting the Holy Spirit to transform you into His likeness?

### **2. Be a Servant of All**

***“The greatest among you shall be your servant. Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted” (Matthew 23:11–12 ESV).***

It’s hard to grow an ego when you are washing feet.

What are some practical, modern ways to wash feet?

### **3. Welcome Accountability**

***“Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another” (Proverbs 27:17).***

Strengthen your relationships within your leadership team and welcome honest feedback. This provides mutual accountability and keeps pride at a distance. You will find in your team a place to share your wins and struggles. Encourage one another and grow with one another.

How open are you to receiving honest feedback from your leadership team, and how might welcoming this accountability help you grow and keep pride at bay?