



## EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Genesis 1 – 19 Sermon Series

Supports Session 9: Stalled

Sermon Title: “The Antidote to Pride” (Gen 10:6-12; 11:1-4)

---

### Connection to Session 9

Session 9 deals with rebellion and the sin of Babel. In this message, we will see how pride and unity misapplied can lead to sin. This passage conveys a warning message: beware of pursuing your own “kingdom,” and instead focus on advancing the Kingdom of God.

### Introduction/Opening

The sin of pride leads to rebellion, bringing destruction. Proverbs 16:18 says, “Pride comes before destruction, and an arrogant spirit before a fall.” When one thinks more highly of himself than he ought to think, you can bet that a fall is coming, and often it comes down hard. Such is the case in the example of the Tower of Babel. This idol was built for the wrong reasons, the wrong purposes, and the wrong motives, and as a result, God ended its construction in a mighty way.

But how did this start? It started along the way of mankind populating the earth. Nimrod, who was called a “powerful hunter” (Gen 10:9; CSB), founded cities such as Nineveh and Babylon along with several other towns and cities in the region. Several of these cities founded by Nimrod would create difficulties for the Hebrews later in history, but for now, these cities would draw attention and give accolades to their common founder.

This is where the issues began. When one attempts to make a name for himself or herself, pride takes over. And as we read about in Proverbs 16:18, with pride comes destruction. So what should we watch for in order to avoid pride? And how do we turn from this sin?

### Outline

#### 1. Seek God’s Will (11:4)

- a. The first problematic issue in this passage is that the people had a self-centered objective: they abandoned God’s will and sought their own.
  - i. They said, “. . . let’s build ourselves a city” (11:4a).

- ii. The will of God was for man to fill and multiply the earth (9:7).
  - iii. However, the people halted that progress when they settled in the Valley in Shinar and decided to build a high tower.
- b. Our call is to seek and know God's will. How?
- i. By renewing our mind by being in His Word (Rom. 12:2).
  - ii. By praying for spiritual wisdom and understanding (Col. 1:9).
  - iii. By being thankful in all circumstances (1 Thess. 5:18).

## 2. Seek God's Name (11:4)

- a. There's a second issue seen in this text. The people wanted to make a name for themselves: "Let's make a name for ourselves" (Gen 11:4b).
- b. They have a precedent for this practice.
  - i. In that day, ancient kings would often build a city, naming it after themselves, a son, or something significant to the founder.
- c. The naming of something showed authority.
  - i. Example: Adam named the animals (Gen 2:19).
  - ii. Example: Jesus gave Simon a new name: Peter (Mark 3:16; John 1:40-42)
  - iii. Example: Parents giving a name to their child, often with much thought and anxiousness.
- d. However, we are not called to seek our own name or even another person's name. Instead, God calls us to seek His name:
  - i. In prayer. Matthew 6:9, in the KJV, says: "Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name."
  - ii. In living and sharing the gospel (Acts 4:12).
  - iii. In being encouraged for the future (Phil. 2:9-11).

## 3. Seek God's Glory

- a. The people had their own plans that contradicted God's plans: ". . . otherwise we will be scattered throughout the earth" (Gen 11:4c).

- b. The people sought their own glory instead of God's glory. By staying in one place, they thought that they could create a purpose or will for themselves, a name for themselves, and, as seen here, a glory for themselves.
- c. Instead, God's glory is to be sought, displayed, and celebrated.
  - i. Glorify Him in all things (Rom. 11:36; 1 Cor. 10:31).
  - ii. Glorify Him forever (Eph. 3:20-21; Rev. 5:13b).

## **Conclusion**

Pride is something all of us encounter. To avoid the temptation of pridefulness, we must be vigilantly focused on God's will, God's name, and God's glory. All this, of course, is done by God's grace. Pray for God to convict you of your own pride and idolatry. Turn to Him for His power to lift Him up. Amen.

*Dr. Fran Trascritti (PhD, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary) serves as the Lead Pastor of Beacon Church, a revitalization work taking place in the West Side of Cincinnati, Ohio. He has almost thirty years of ministry experience in churches and denominational service. Fran and his wife, Teresa, live in Cincinnati, where they enjoy time with their kids and thirteen grandkids.*

*All Scripture quotations are taken from the Christian Standard Bible, Copyright 2020 by Holman Bible Publishers.*