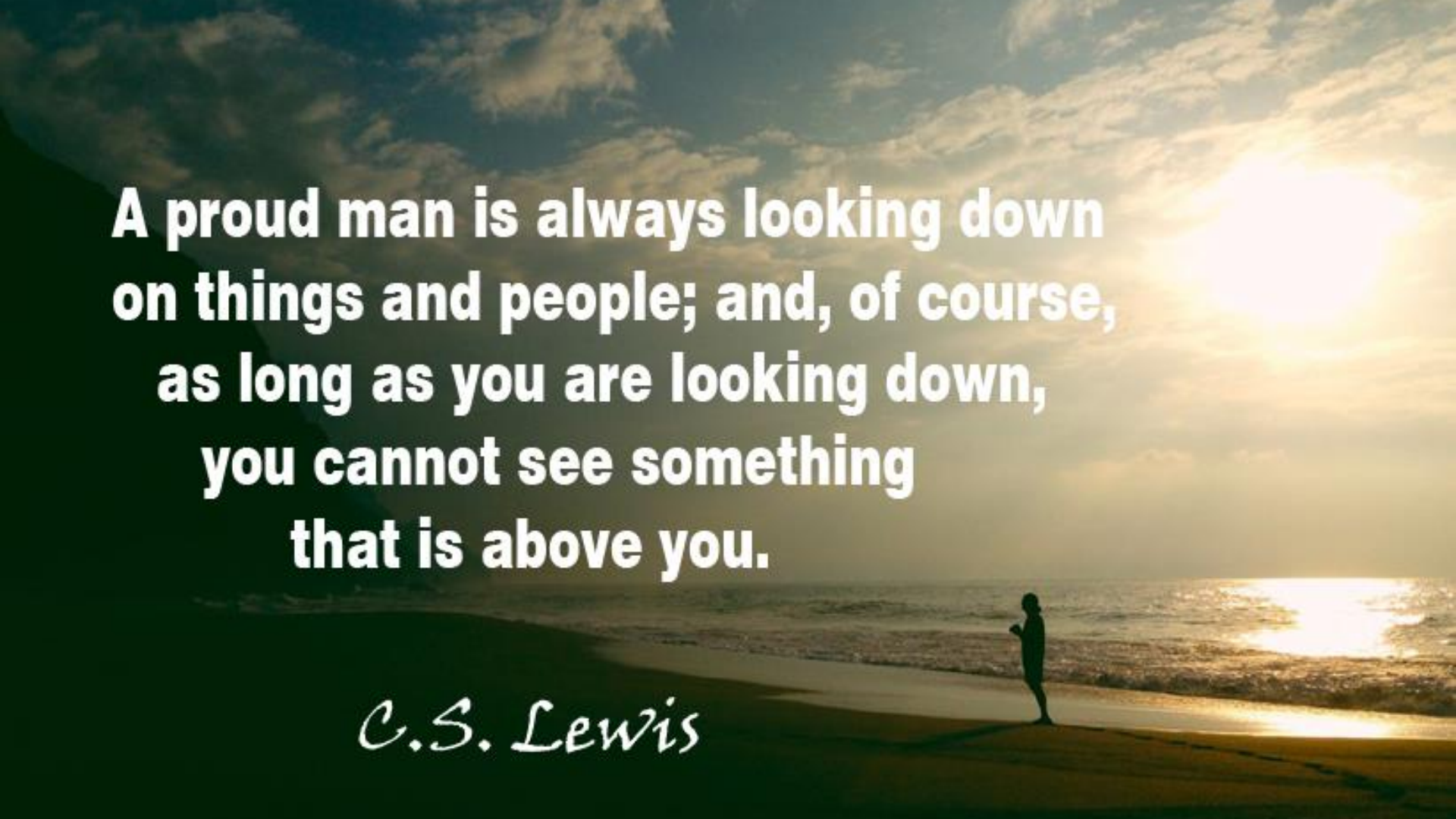




THRIVE

A LOOK AT
PHILIPPIANS

A person is silhouetted against a bright sunset over the ocean. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a golden glow across the sky and reflecting on the water. The person stands on a sandy beach, looking out towards the waves. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

**A proud man is always looking down
on things and people; and, of course,
as long as you are looking down,
you cannot see something
that is above you.**

C.S. Lewis

Session #3: Following with Joy

Text: Philippians 2:1-11

“The Great Sin”

If we find that our religious life is making us feel that we are good—above all, that we are better than someone else—I think we may be sure that we are being acted on, not by God, but by the Devil.” ~C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

*Question #1: Why is unity so
essential in the church?*

(2:1-2)

Preventing disunity

1. The Fact that we are all in Christ
2. The power of Christian love
3. The fact that we share in the Holy Spirit
4. The existence of human compassion

Question #2: What are the consequences when people look out for their own interests in a community?

(2:3-4)

Two Narrative Identities

- The Moral-performance Narrative
 - I obey therefore I am accepted by God
- The Grace Narrative
 - I am accepted by God through Christ therefore I obey.

Defining the Humility

Being humble involves having a true perspective about ourselves in relation to God, which in turn gives us a correct perspective on our relationships with others.

Romans 12:3,10

1 Peter 3:8 & 5:5

Question #3: How can we work together to obey Paul's command?

(2:5-11)

Bounding theology and action

- Jesus thought of others not himself (5-6)
- He Served (7)
- He Sacrificed (8)
- He Glorified God (9-11)

“Christ is the humility of God embodied in human nature; the Eternal Love humbling itself, clothing itself in the garb of meekness and gentleness, to win and serve and save us.”

~Andrew Murray

Final Thrive Thought

Jesus vision was not to come and be served but to serve (Mark 10:45). The truth is we will never find joy in the church when we are constantly seeking things our way. But paradoxically, we will find the greatest joy when we choose to be last. True joy means giving up our rights and preferences (or interest) and serving everyone else.