

“Avoiding Spiritual Arrogance”
A Study of the Book of Romans
Pastor Tim Allen

Key Truth: We should be warned and assured that unbelief is destructive, but faith is restorative.

There’s was kind of “Cancel Culture” among Gentiles in Paul’s day, with respect to unbelieving Israel. They decided that, since Israel as a whole has rejected the Messiah, they must be rejected too. Today, this same attitude may be expressed in a feeling of superiority over unbelieving Israel, in comments in our Bible Studies that suggest we’d never have acted as rebelliously as they did in the Old Testament, and in a theology that teaches Israel has been replaced. Canceling Israel is alive and well in the 21st-century church. Yet, God hasn’t rejected them (11:1). He still has plans for the descendants of Abraham.

DISCUSS

Read **Romans 11:17-24** and discuss with the group a statement or concept that stood out to you or impacted you in the sermon entitled “Avoiding Spiritual Arrogance.”

DIG IN

1. Warning against Spiritual Pride (Romans 11:17-21)

How do we know Paul is now talking to the Gentiles? Is he speaking to individual Gentiles, or to all Gentile Christians? Why?

Explain the metaphor that Paul uses to describe the Jews and Gentiles? Do you find this metaphor helpful in explaining Paul’s teaching? Why or why not?

In ways is Paul exhorting the Gentile Christians to be humble (See vv. 17-18)? How does he use the metaphor of the olive trees to illustrate that?

Why is employing godly fear a necessary element in avoiding spiritual arrogance? What is the difference between being afraid and employing godly fear?

In what ways does true faith in Christ produce humility and godly fear?

2. Assurance of God’s Restoring Grace (Romans 11:22-24)

What do God’s attributes of kindness and severity teach us about His grace and power?

In what ways is it encouraging that God can re-graft broken-off branches back into His good olive tree?

In what ways is grafting the wild branch into the good tree contrary to nature? What does that tell us about God?

DO

What lessons do you learn from these verses that you will take with you throughout the coming week?