

THE HIERARCHY OF HEAVEN
Matthew 18:1-14 // June 30, 2024 PM

I. Self-exalting pride impedes kingdom *citizenship* (vv. 1-4).

II. Self-exalting pride impedes kingdom *community* (vv. 5-14).

QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY WORSHIP

1. What is a hierarchy? What is the standard for the hierarchy in God's kingdom?
2. Why does Jesus use a child to call His disciples to humility? How would you define humility?
3. Who is Jesus referring to when he speaks of children and little ones in vv. 5-14? Is He speaking of literal children or figurative children? What clues are we given in the immediate and broader context?
4. How does our unbelieving pride tempt other disciples to unbelieving pride? Can you give specific examples?
5. Why does Jesus tell us to gouge out our eyes and cut off our hands? What in the world is He talking about? How does it relate to His call to receive other disciples?
6. What do the angels and the heavenly Father have to teach us about how we ought to view and interact with one another in the church?

QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE REFLECTION

1. Is it necessarily bad to desire greatness? Why, or why not?
2. Who is the greatest in God's kingdom? How does Jesus's estate of humiliation show us the path to greatness in the kingdom of God?
3. Do I have a hard heart toward a fellow Christian in the church or have I been despising them with my words or actions? What must I do in light of Christ's teaching here?