



March 1, 2026 | Matthew Ott

Series: Fully Equipped: Pursuing Christian Maturity (2 Peter)

Sermon Title: The Anatomy of Arrogance

Main Scripture: 2 Peter 2:10b-16

ANNOUNCEMENTS/CHURCH BODY HIGHLIGHTS

1. [Past Newsletters](#)
2. Learn about the ACBC Conference, which equips you to think biblically, and help yourself and others face all manner of life's challenges.
 - a. Who doesn't love a good road trip with friends (Oct 4-7)
 - b. Visit <https://biblicalcounseling.com/about/events/2026-annual-conference/> (scroll down to sessions and expand the breakouts to see ALL of the topics you can choose from)!
 - c. Let us know of your intent to go here:
<https://ogc.churchcenter.com/people/forms/1067480> Prices increase with time, so let us know sooner than later.
3. Prayer Vigil begins April 3-5. This is good tradition for Oak Grove – an opportunity to have someone at the church for 40-hours leading into Easter Sunday morning! Begins Friday, 4/3, at 2:00pm with one-hour slots until Sunday morning at 6:00am.
 - a. Would you sign up to pray at church for one hour?
 - b. We have resources to help guide your time, or you can just pray as you wish.
 - c. More info coming. If you've prayed at the Prayer Vigil before, share your experience with those who haven't done so.

OUTLINE AND DISCUSSION GUIDE

I. Introduction: The Highest Court

- **The Analogy:** Matthew Ott opened with a strong statement, "If God's Word is the final authority, then the greatest danger we face is the impulse to replace it with ourselves." (It is similar to a previous analogy Aaron used a few weeks ago, "God's Word is the highest court, and our feelings are the lowest court.")
- **Discussion:** Why is it so tempting in our modern culture to elevate ourselves, our own perception of life, reality, or "personal experiences" to the level of the "Supreme Court" in our lives? What happens when a believer's feelings overrule God's written Word? Can you identify a recent time when you elevated yourself, your opinion, desires, etc. above God's authority?

II. The Heart That Forgets to Tremble (Verses 10b-11)

- **Read** 2 Peter 2:10b-11.
- **Contrasting pride and arrogance:** Peter points out that even "glorious ones" (supernatural beings who are mightier than us) know better than to pass arrogant judgment, recognizing that judgment belongs to God alone. Yet, false teachers are "bold and willful."
 - **The Root:** Matthew noted that pride is the internal thought, while arrogance is the external, boastful action.
 - **Discussion:** Look at the statements of pride Matt listed, such as, "I don't really need accountability anymore," or "I've matured past needing someone to correct me." Have you ever caught yourself operating with this kind of spiritual pride? How can we cultivate a heart that "trembles" with a healthy fear of the Lord?
- **Puffed Up By Experience: "My Truth" vs. "The Truth" (Verses 12-13)**
- **Read** 2 Peter 2:12-13.
 - **The Danger of Opinions:** Our opinions evolve based on our environment and personal experiences. If we aren't careful, we will start justifying our actions by saying things like, "I just feel peace about it," or "This is my truth," or "I follow what is authentic to me".
 - **Discussion:** Why is the phrase "This is my truth" so dangerous for a Christian to adopt? How do we lovingly push back when a friend tries to justify sin by claiming they "just feel peace about it"?

III. The Care That Leads to Life: Community & Discipleship

- **A Warning:** Matthew gave a stark warning: A pastor who only fills the congregation with knowledge but never warns them of danger is simply fattening the sheep for the slaughter.
- **The Connection:** We cannot hear a word of biblical direction, correction, or protection without a *connection*.
 - *Discussion:* Matt warned against the "Pirate Syndrome"—living a life focused entirely on "I, I, I" (e.g., "I make my own decisions," "I grow better on my own"). How does intentional discipleship and community cure the Pirate Syndrome?

IV. The The Path that Promises Much but Destroys More (Verses 14-16)

Matt outlined three specific "false gospels" that are popular today. Discuss which of these you find most prevalent in your circles or on your social media feeds:

1. **The Lie of the Prosperity False Gospel:** Claims God guarantees health, wealth, and success if you have enough faith. (*Read 1 Timothy 6:5-10 together as a rebuttal*).
 - a. **Look at Peter's example: The Way of Balaam (Numbers 22:1-35 & 2 Peter 2:15-16)**
 - b. **Context:** In 2 Peter 2:15-16, Peter explicitly compares these false teachers to the Old Testament prophet Balaam, who tried to curse Israel for a paycheck and had to be rebuked by his own donkey.

- c. **Read:** Numbers 22:21-35 (immediate context is 22:1-24:25).
- d. **Discussion:** Balaam was blinded by his desire for wealth and status, to the point that a dumb animal had more spiritual sight than he did. How does the "way of Balaam" perfectly describe the motive of the false teachers Matt warned us about (like those pushing the Prosperity Gospel)?
 - i. In what ways can the pursuit of money, platform, or success blind us to the roadblocks God puts in our path?
- 2. **The Lie of Legalism:** Claims your standing with God depends on your performance or obedience level. (*Read Ephesians 2:8-9 together as a rebuttal*).
- 3. **The Lie of Universalism:** Claims all sincere spiritual paths lead to God. (*Read John 14:6 together as a rebuttal*).
 - a. **Deep Dive: The Danger of "My Truth" (Proverbs 14:12 & Jeremiah 17:9)**
 - b. **Context:** Matthew warned against the cultural push to let our "feelings" sit as the Supreme Court of our lives, using phrases like "I just feel peace about it."
 - c. **Read:** Proverbs 14:12 and Jeremiah 17:9.
 - d. **Discussion:** The culture constantly tells us to "follow your heart" or trust your "lived experience." According to Jeremiah and Proverbs, why is following your heart a recipe for disaster?
 - i. How do these verses emphasize our desperate need for the external, unchanging truth of God's Word to guide us rather than our internal feelings?

Prayer Focus

- **Give praise to God for the true gospel of Jesus!** Spend several minutes thanking God for aspects of the Gospel of Jesus and what it means for believers! Think of the many sides of a jewel as you think of the many beauties of the Good News!
- **Confess** any areas where you have allowed your feelings or experiences to sit in the "highest court" instead of God's Word.
- **Pray:** Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal where your heart might be led astray by pride, and pray for the strength to battle falsehoods with the truth. (Psalm 139 (especially 23-24) is an example of praising God for who He is and asking for insight to know where we may be led astray).