

## The Problem Of Pride

### Introduction.

1. Years ago Augustine named “pride” as the greatest of all sins.
  - a. He pointed out that when man is proud he exalts himself and he displaces God.
  - b. There is no greater sin than displacing, despising and rejecting God.
2. Pride is an insidious sin that can invade every facet of a person's life and make him obnoxious to God and others.

### Pride Is Used In Two Senses

1. There is the good sense.
  - a. Pride is synonymous with self-respect, personal dignity, seeking to do a good job.
  - b. This can manifest itself in good job performance, good grades, good parenthood, etc.
  - c. It manifests itself in a feeling of self-worth and appearance.
    - 1) He who has no self-respect demands no respect from others.
    - 2) One who refuses to keep clean probably lacks self-respect.
  - d. Let us make sure that the pride that we possess is the kind that keeps the chin and head up and not the nose!
2. There is the bad sense.
  - a. Webster defines this pride as, "the quality or state of being proud: an inordinate self-esteem: conceit."
  - b. The Bible warns that this pride is sinful. (Prov. 21:4; 6:16-19; 16:5; 8:13).

Prov. 21:4 Haughty eyes and a proud heart, The lamp of the wicked, is sin.

Prov. 6:16 There are six things which the LORD hates, Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him:

Prov. 6:17 Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, And hands that shed innocent blood,

Prov. 6:18 A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that run rapidly to evil,

Prov. 6:19 A false witness who utters lies, And one who spreads strife among brothers.

Prov. 16:5 Everyone who is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD; Assuredly, he will not be unpunished.

Prov. 8:13 "The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way And the perverted mouth, I hate.

- c. See Mk. 7:21-27; Rom. 1:22; 2 Tim. 3:1-5.

d. Pride is one of the channels through which Satan tempts man to sin. (1 Jn. 2:15-17).

1 Jn. 2:15 Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

1 Jn. 2:16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

1 Jn. 2:17 The world is passing away, and *also* its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

1) Satan used pride in the temptation of Christ. (Matt. 4:1-11).

2) He used it in the temptation of Adam and Eve. (Gen. 3:1-6).

### **Pride Leads To Many Other Sins**

1. Pride will **prevent conversion**. (Matt. 18:1-4; 5:3).

2. Pride will cause one to **refuse to confess his sins**.

a. Some cannot humble themselves low enough to say, "I have sinned."

b. We need to confess our sins to God. (1 Jn. 1:8-10).

c. We need to confess sin to others. (Matt. 5:21-24; 18:15-17; Jas. 5:16).

3. Pride keeps one from **doing menial tasks**, from serving in some or all ways. (Jn. 13:1-15).

4. Pride will cause one to try to **live beyond his means**.

a. This causes one to be more interested in impressing others and gratifying self than in helping others or preaching the gospel.

b. This causes one to get deeply in debt and may lead to a failure to pay debts. (Rom. 12:17; 13:8).

5. Pride causes **contention**. (Prov. 13:10).

Prov. 13:10 Through insolence comes nothing but strife, But wisdom is with those who receive counsel.

a. It "breeds quarrels." NIV

b. The wise will "take advice." NIV

6. Pride leads to **rebellion**. (Psa. 10:4).

7. Pride causes the **rule or ruin, boss or burst, attitude**. (3 Jn. 9, 10).

3 Jn. 9 I wrote something to the church; but Diotrophes, who loves to be first among them, does not accept what we say.

3 Jn. 10 For this reason, if I come, I will call attention to his deeds which he does, unjustly accusing us with wicked words; and not satisfied with this, he himself does not receive the brethren, either, and he forbids those who desire to do so and puts them out of the church.

8. Pride leads to **apostasy**. (1 Tim. 3:6; Prov.16:18; 1 Cor.10:12).

1 Tim. 3:6 *and* not a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil.

Prov. 16:18 Pride *goes* before destruction, And a haughty spirit before stumbling.

1 Cor. 10:12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall.

- a. A Chinese proverb says, "He who stands on a pedestal has no place to step but off."
- b. Jesus warned against exalting self. (Matt. 23:11,12).

Matt. 23:11 "But the greatest among you shall be your servant.

Matt. 23:12 "Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted.

## **Forms Of Pride**

### **1. Spiritual pride**

- a. Scribes and Pharisees were guilty of this pride. (Mk. 12:38,39; Lk.18:10-14).
- b. Spiritual pride causes one to trust his own virtues rather than the grace of God and the blood of Christ. (Eph. 2:8-10).
- c. This is a sin that both Christians and non-Christians commit.

### **2. Intellectual pride** (1 Cor. 8:1-2).

1 Cor. 8:1 Now concerning things sacrificed to idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge makes arrogant, but love edifies.

1 Cor.8:2 If anyone supposes that he knows anything, he has not yet known as he ought to know;

- a. This kind of pride causes one to look down with disdain on the unlearned, illiterate, oppressed, poor and down-trodden.
- b. It causes one to look down on one's parents as out-of-date ignoramuses and on the elders back home as "back-woody."
- c. It forgets that all of our mental capabilities are derived from God.
- d. True knowledge gives birth to humility, not conceit and contempt.
- e. Intellectual pride causes some to denounce God, Christ, Bible, miracles, etc.
- f. This is not to encourage ignorance (Jn. 8:24, 32), for there is no premium on ignorance. (Acts 17:30; 2 Thess. 1:7-9).

### **3. Pride of material things**

- a. This pride causes one to trust in his material possessions, talking of me, my and mine, while forgetting that all material blessings flow from God. (1 Chron. 29:12; Jas. 1:27).
- b. This is the pride that will cause one to strut his expensive dress or suit, show his credit cards, and drive a flashy automobile.
- c. See 1 Timothy 6:7-9; Psa. 62:10.

1 Tim. 6:7 For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either.

1 Tim. 6:8 If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content.

1 Tim. 6:9 But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction.

Psa. 62:10 Do not trust in oppression And do not vainly hope in robbery; If riches increase, do not set *your* heart *upon* them.

- d. We must not be proud of our humility.

1) Socrates tells of Diogenes, who lived in a tub and dressed in rags. He said, "I see your vanity through the holes in your cloak."

2) Some have heard of the man who was given a medal for his humility, and then had to have it taken from him because he wore it.

#### 4. **Social pride**

- a. This pride will manifest itself by treating the poor in a shameful way. (Jas. 2:1-9).
- b. This is the pride that causes men to look down on men of other races.

#### 5. **Boastful pride**

- a. This pride boasts of unethical and dishonest business deals, of lying their way out of trouble, or immoral pursuits.
- b. Sin should cause one to be deeply ashamed, not proud! (2 Cor. 7:10).

#### 6. **Pride of place**

- a. Some love to be first (3 Jn. 9,10).
- b. Through pride of place James and John wanted the chief seats in the kingdom of Christ. (Mk. 10:34,35).
- c. If I can't be chairman, I won't serve on the committee.
- d. I refuse to serve without being in the limelight and receiving recognition for my work.

#### 7. **Pride of face**

- a. It is good to keep ones body clean, and to be neat and attractive if one does not become conceited about it.
- b. One should not allow his or her attractiveness to treat others with disdain.

c. One should not allow an unholy desire to display oneself to lead to immodesty. (1 Tim. 2:9,10).

## The Cure For Pride

1. God hates pride. (Prov. 6:16-19; Jas. 4:6).

2. Love will cure pride. (1 Cor. 13:4.)

1 Cor. 13:4 Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant,

3. We must remember that we are but men. (Psa. 9:20).

Psa. 9:20 Put them in fear, O LORD; Let the nations know that they are but men

4. We have no sufficiency in ourselves. (Jn. 5:30; 2 Cor. 3:5.)

Jn. 5:30 "I can do nothing on My own initiative. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

2 Cor. 13:5 Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as *coming* from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God,

5. We must avoid thinking of ourselves more highly than we ought to think. (Rom. 12:3; Gal. 6:3).

Rom. 12:3 For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.

Gal. 6:3 For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

a. We are God's servants.

b. All we are or have is from God.

6. We must walk humbly with God. (Mic. 6:8).

Mic. 6:8 He has told you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justice, to love kindness, And to walk humbly with your God?

7. We are debtors to God and the help of others. (1 Cor. 4:7; 15:10; Deut. 8:11-20).

8. Jesus is the way to heaven. (Jn.14:6; Gal. 6:14).

9. We must crucify self. (Gal. 2:20).

a. "I" is the middle letter in both pride and sin.

b. We should strive to live like we sing "None of self, and all of Thee."

10. We must realize that pride always leads to destruction. (Prov. 16:18; 15:25; 16:5;18:12).

a. Pride led Judah into Babylonian captivity. (Jere. 13:15-17.).

b. The proud will be brought low. (Prov. 29:23; Psa.18:27.).

Prov. 29:23 A man's pride will bring him low, But a humble spirit will obtain honor.

Psa. 18:27 For You save an afflicted people, But haughty eyes You abase.

## **Conclusion**

1. Let us work hard to cultivate the grace of humility.
2. The kingdom of heaven belongs to the humble. (Matt. 5:3).

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