

The Sin Of Pride

No. 186

Introduction.

I. On one occasion, when Jesus was at a feast, He spoke a parable to the guests saying.

LUK 14:8 "When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, lest someone more distinguished than you may have been invited by him, 14:9 and he who invited you both shall come and say to you, 'Give place to this man,' and then in disgrace you proceed to occupy the last place. 10 "But when you are invited, go and recline at the last place, so that when the one who has invited you comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will have honor in the sight of all who are at the table with you. 11 "For everyone who exalts himself shall be humbled, and he who humbles himself shall be exalted."

A. In this parable Jesus condemned the sin of pride.

B. Pride is one of the deadliest of all sins and is a sin condemned throughout God's word. (Prov. 16:5; Matt. 18:1-4; Jas. 4:6).

1. These scriptures condemn the sin of pride and show it is an abominable sin to Jehovah.
2. There is nothing God hates or despises more than pride.

II. As we begin this study of pride it is important that we distinguish between **lofty self-respect and devilish pride**.

A. Self-respect is permissible and desirable characteristic.

1. Self-respect kept **Joseph** from committing adultery.
2. Self-respect kept **Daniel** from defiling himself with Nebuchadnezzar's unclean food.
3. Self-respect **motivates us to be neat and clean and to always do our best**.
4. **Self-respect is good**, but many times what we label self-respect is in reality devilish pride.

B. **Someone has said**, "Pride is a good thing to have, but be sure it is the kind that keeps your chin up and not your nose."

C. I would like for us to consider some of the ways pride is manifested.

I. **Social Standing** - Many people are proud of their social standing.

A. They are **too proud** to sit next to a man who works in the factory or collects the trash. They are too proud to sit next to the woman who takes in washings or scrubs floors for a living. They are too proud to associate with others whose clothes are not as fine as their's or with someone who skin happens to be black.

B. One of the problems the church has struggled with in the past and still has some problems with is **race prejudice**. There are Christians who feel too good to associate with black people.

1. **In the fall of 1967 two black gospel preachers** heard about a religious debate and decided to attend. They were met at the door by an usher and told it was not an integrated meeting. They told the usher

they were gospel ministers in the same city and would like to hear the debate, but they were not permitted to enter because of the color of their skin.

2. On another occasion I heard about a **congregation who had black residents** around the building, but when gospel meeting announcements were distributed the black families were omitted? Why? Because the whites felt superior to the blacks and did not want to associate with them or be criticized for doing so.
3. I knew of one church that baptized some **black people in their baptistry**. Some of them then had their businesses boycotted by the community and they did not do that again because of economic reasons.
4. **Such examples as these have happened many times in the past**. I am not sure how often it happens today. I do know that the church makes little effort in most places to convert black people and are slow to have fellowship with them. They are much happier if they attend a black congregation. We pretty much have a white brotherhood, and a black brotherhood.

D. I submit to you that such an attitude will send a man to hell.

1. God has taught that all men are equal and are to be treated as such. (Acts 10:34, 35, Jas. 2:9; Gal. 3:26-28).
2. Re-read 3:28 substituting “white” and “black”.
3. God’s word make it clear that God desires all men to be one in Jesus Christ and work and worship together as brothers in Christ.
4. A number of years ago **David Lipscomb**, one of the restoration leaders, wrote in the “Gospel Advocate.”

“We believe it is sinful to have two congregations in the same community for persons of separate and distinct races. That race prejudice would cause trouble in the churches we know. It did this in apostolic days. Not once did the apostles suggest congregations for different races. But they always admonished them to unity, forbearance, love and brotherhood in Christ Jesus. We believe it is sinful to do otherwise.

God saves the believing Negro or white through obedience, and can one claiming to be a child of God say no? But often the individual has been saved by God. God purposes to add him to the church or assembly of his people, by requiring him to worship and serve him. And men, claiming to be followers of God presume to say, ‘No, God, you cannot add this child to your family.’ This is the meaning of it. He simply says God cannot add those whom he saved to his own. How dare any man assume such power and authority? How dare a church tolerate the persistent exhibition of such a spirit? Such a church certainly forfeits its claim to be a church of God.

Our treatment of the Negro, at best, is that of criminal indifference and neglect. To discourage and repel him, when despite that cruel neglect on our part he seeks membership in the church of God, is an outrage that ought not for a moment be tolerated. (Gospel Advocate, February 21, 1878).

5. The late brother **R.N. Hogan**, an outstanding black evangelist in Los Angeles, wrote the following in Jimmy Lovell’s “Action” paper.

“Brother Lovell you asked me what I thought about the barriers in the body of Christ - you might call it a

wall-that exists between white brethren and Negroes. From a Negro viewpoint-yes, they do exist just about every place in the brotherhood. We have two organizations of the church of Christ that are separate and distinct, but practically the same in doctrine in practice. We have the church of Christ White and the church of Christ Negro. I have seen some white people come here to the Figueroa church and upon discovering that this congregation is made up of Negroes, they have turned and gone away. They would not worship with us. We maintain that anyone who refused to worship with any congregation of the body of Christ because of prejudice commits sin. I do not say that the fault lies altogether at the feet of our white brethren. I agree with you 100% that the time has come when the church needs to face these facts and do something about them. I also agree with you that there is hatred and bitterness between the two races in America; but the thing that worries me most is that the same is found in the church of our Lord Jesus..."

6. **Brethren, everyone of us knows in our hearts that brother Hogan told the truth.** Relationships have improved some through the years, but there is still a feeling among some brethren that they do not want anything to do with black Christians. At best they want limited fellowship. **God will condemn those with this attitude** just as He condemned the Jews who felt too good to associate with the Gentiles. Heaven will not be a "white heaven" or a "black heaven" or a "brown heaven" but an integrated heaven. If we cannot work and worship here together, God will not take us to heaven because we would be miserable there.

7. **I am thankful** many here are striving to overcome racial prejudice and are willing to work with and have fellowship with people of all races.

a. We have some of the finest elders and some of the finest Christians in the world here who are big enough to rise above racial prejudice and teach and worship with people regardless of their color.

b. **The church is the salt of the earth and the light of the world**, but it can never, never be these things if it lets a few prejudiced Christians and public reaction keep it from doing right. The church of the first century had the courage to stand for the right and receive the people of all races regardless of the consequences and the church must have the courage today to do the same or forfeit its right to be called the Lord's church.

II. **Spiritual Standing** - Others are proud of their spiritual standing.

A. They look upon themselves as spiritual giants and are very critical of the faults of others.

B. They are much like the Pharisee who prayed in the temple. (Lk. 18:9-14).

C. **Brethren, we must not have a haughty, arrogant spirit.**

1. We must not confess the other persons sins, but must recognize and confess our own sins.

2. Each time we pray we should say, "God be merciful to me a sinner."

III. **Desire To Be Called By Religious Titles** - Others manifest pride by a desire to be called by religious titles.

A. Some become highly insulted if you do not call them "Reverend" or "Father" or by some other religious title.

B. Jesus taught that as brethren we are equal and forbids the wearing of religious titles. (Matt. 23:6-12).

6 "And they love the place of honor at banquets, and the chief seats in the synagogues, 7 and respectful greetings in the market places, and being called by men, Rabbi. 8 "But do not be called Rabbi; for One is your

Teacher, and you are all brothers. 9 "And do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven.10 "And do not be called leaders; for One is your Leader, that is, Christ. 11 "But the greatest among you shall be your servant. 12 "And whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted.

IV. Sins - Others are proud of their sins.

- A. Many will sit by the hour and boast of the sinful things they have done as though sin was something to be proud of.
- B. **Sin is certainly nothing to boast about.** I have always wondered why people hide their garbage, but parade their sins. It does not seem too consistent to me! Instead of boasting of sin, we should repent of our sins and asked God for forgiveness.

V. Humble Tasks - Some are too proud to do humble tasks.

- A. There are some who will lead prayers, wait on the table, preach or teach that will not clean the building, care for the lawn, sit up with the sick or knock doors and tell others about Christ. This attitude is so unlike the one our Lord possessed.
- B. In the **13th chapter of John** we find that Jesus was in the upper room with His disciples for the purpose of partaking of the Passover supper. During the supper Jesus rose and began washing the disciples' feet. When he had finished this task reserved for servants or slaves, He said. (Jn. 13:15,16).
- C. Jesus was teaching here that if He was willing to humble Himself to wash the feet of men, how much more should we be willing as His servants to humble ourselves in the work of God.

VI. Puffed Up About Achievements - Others are puffed up about their achievements.

- A. **One time a young man received a medal at school** and the person who bestowed it used extravagant language to praise his greatness. The young man got the big head and proudly repeated the words that had been said to his mother. He asked her, "How many great men are there in the world?" The wise mother said, "One less than you think."
- B. This reminds me of Paul's words. (Gal. 6:3).

Conclusion.

I. One of the hardest sentences in the English language is, "I have sinned."

- A. Many Christians, because they are afraid of what someone will say or think, will not come forward and confess, "I have sinned, pray for me."
- B. Pride keeps many a man or woman from becoming a Christian. They think they are too big and important to come and bow before Jesus of Nazareth and say, "I am a sinner. I am lost. I need your grace." They are too proud to submit to baptism and call upon the blood of Jesus to save them. Such pride will keep a person out of heaven. hose who enter heaven must enter upon their knees.

II. Jesus is calling all will humbly come to Him. He promises salvation and sweet rest and peace. Will you come as we stand and sing?

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