

PRIDE

There is a sin that is hard to detect, and its results are deadly. God hates it more than any other sin. It has been around since before man. It is no respecter of persons. It can creep in at any stage in your life. It is the sin over which most Christians stumble. Believe it or not, this is the only sin that even your face can commit! The sin - PRIDE.

Prov. 6:16-17 says: *“These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,”*

PRIDE’S DESCRIPTION

Pride is thinking more highly of ourselves than we should. It is humbling to think that God made man out of the dust of the earth. Scientists say that the value of the chemicals in a man’s body amounts to only \$2.52! Prov. 27:1-2 says: *“Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth. Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth; a stranger, and not thine own lips.”*

Pride is taking credit for success. A proud person will seek compliments and brag on his accomplishments. Paul said, *“But by the grace of God I am what I am:...”* (I Cor. 15:10) All you are or possess is only by God’s grace and mercy. There are no self-made men! You are an illumination of everyone who has ever invested in you. It would be a great day if every Christian learned to deflect praise. Do not just say “thank you” when praised, but point to others that have helped make you.

Pride is thinking you deserve to be treated better than you are. The fact is, we all deserve hell! Anything better than hell is God’s grace. Those who think they deserve better are easily offended. They have a chip on their shoulder. A proud person is not usually one who walks with God. Notice what Ps. 119:165 says: *“Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.”*

Someone said, “I have no problem with pride.” Another replied, “Why should you? You have nothing to be proud of.” This first man said, “Oh yea? I have just as much to be proud of as you!”

Pride stops the words *I am sorry, I have sinned, and I was wrong.*

Pride encourages us to keep up with the Jones’. We feel like we need to have what everyone else has.

Pride kills thankfulness. You will not hear “thank you” very often from proud people. The story is told of a mother and young boy in a supermarket. The manager gave the boy a nice shiny apple. The mother said, “What do you say to the nice man, Junior?” The boy looked disgustedly at the manager and yelled, “PEEL IT!” This is the prevailing attitude in our nation today. Proud people think they deserve a home in which to live,

food for their stomachs, and lucrative employment.

Pride is wanting to run you own life.

Pride has a hard time taking orders or seeking counsel.

Pride produces fake living.

Pride entices you to try to be something you are not.

A great preacher said, “Be what you is - not what you ain’t. Because if you is what you ain’t, then you ain’t what you is.” A computer expert said, “Be a WYSIWYG!” That stands for “What You See is What You Get”. Let us be genuine.

Ps. 10:4 says: *“The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts.”*

Ps. 73:6 says: *“Therefore pride compasseth them about as a chain; violence covereth them as a garment.”*

The root of every argument is pride. Pride stops an argument from being settled.

Prov. 16:5 says *“Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD: though hand join in hand, he shall not be unpunished.”*

Ezek. 16:49 says: *“Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fullness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy.”*

One of the sins of the homosexual city of Sodom was pride!

James 4:6 says: *“But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.”*

James 2 speaks much of the sin of respect of persons. It is the sin whereby you treat the rich, upper crust, and sharp better than you treat the poor, rejected, and misfits. A person who is prejudiced or snubs the poor has a problem with pride.

H. T. Webster sent a congratulatory note to 20 acquaintances that had done nothing of notable recognition. In less than two weeks all of them sent him a thank you note - even though they had not done a thing! That is pride!

A woodpecker was said to have been pecking on a tree as lightning exploded the tree. The woodpecker said, “Look what I did!”

I CAN DO ALL THINGS - PRIDE

I CAN DO NO THINGS - PITY
I CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH CHRIST - PEACE

Isa. 14:12-15 says: *“How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.”*

Notice all the times the devil used the word I. It was the first sin! Many people resemble a peacock. They are all show and beauty but not much spiritual meat to them.

**I
SIN
PRIDE**

PRIDE’S VICTIMS

Saul

I Sam. 15:17 says: *“And Samuel said, When thou wast little in thine own sight, wast thou not made the head of the tribes of Israel, and the LORD anointed thee king over Israel?”* The entire chapter of I Sam. 15 is Saul arguing with Samuel that he did obey. He was too stubborn and proud to admit he was wrong. God ceased to use him.

Naaman

II Kings 5:11-12 says: *“But Naaman was wroth, and went away, and said, Behold, I thought, He will surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the LORD his God, and strike his hand over the place, and recover the leper. Are not Abana and Pharpar, rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? may I not wash in them, and be clean? So he turned and went away in a rage.”* Naaman was upset because he was told to wash in a muddy river to be healed of his leprosy. He thought he deserved better treatment than that.

Pharisee

Luke 18:11-12 says: *“The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.”* He thought he could look down on others. Only God is high enough to look down on anyone!

Herod

Acts 12:21-23 says: *“And upon a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat upon his throne, and made an oration unto them. And*

the people gave a shout, saying, It is the voice of a god, and not of a man. And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost.” Herod took the glory that belonged to God and died a horrible death.

Nebuchadnezzar

Dan. 4:30-33, 37 says: *“The king spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty? While the word was in the king’s mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, saying, O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; The kingdom is departed from thee. And they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field: they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and seven times shall pass over thee, until thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will. The same hour was the thing fulfilled upon Nebuchadnezzar: and he was driven from men, and did eat grass as oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, till his hairs were grown like eagles’ feathers, and his nails like birds’ claws. Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase.”* God humbled the king for seven years by letting him go insane. He grazed in the pasture as an ox. He was later saved and wrote a gospel tract (Dan. 4).

Charles Spurgeon once had a proud seminary student walk up the steps to the platform to preach. He got lost in his sermon and began to cry. He closed his Bible and sat on the front seat. Spurgeon said, “If you would have come up the way you went down, you could have gone down the way you came up.”

PRIDE’S QUIZ

- Are you easily offended?
- Does it irritate you when your faults are corrected?
- When you make mistakes do you make an alibi?
- Do you find it hard to receive instructions?
- Do you mind being told what to do?
- Do you get upset when someone crosses your rights?
- Do you ever seek counsel?
- Do you have a grateful spirit?

PRIDE’S END - SHAME AND DESTRUCTION

Prov. 11:2 says: *“When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom.”*

Prov. 16:18 says: *“Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.”*

PRIDE'S CURE

1. Confess it. I John 1:9 says: *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*
2. Serve God's people. Phil. 2:7-8 says: *"But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."* Get busy serving God's people. It will remove pride. Do some free work for someone. Wash someone's car, shine someone's shoes, run an errand for someone. Forget yourself for awhile.
3. Obey God's man. Ex. 10:3 says: *"And Moses and Aaron came in unto Pharaoh, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD God of the Hebrews, How long wilt thou refuse to humble thyself before me? Let my people go, that they may serve me."* Obey your pastor.
4. Remember God's blessings. Deut. 8:2 says: *"And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no."*
5. Fast God's way. Ps. 35:13 says: *"But as for me, when they were sick, my clothing was sackcloth: I humbled my soul with fasting; and my prayer returned into mine own bosom."* (Also see Isa. 58:6-12)

CONCLUSION

The "altar call" or invitation concluding church services is so necessary. Pride is what stops someone from walking an aisle and being saved. There must be that breaking down of pride at the time of salvation. God gives grace to the humble.

The story is told of a plantation owner who had a slave. The slave was a Christian and was always happy and cheerful. The boss asked what he had to do to get saved. The slave replied, "You must cross the fence, walk across the field and wallow in the mud with the pigs." The boss thought that was ridiculous and so put it off as nonsense. The Holy Spirit began working on the boss. One day the boss asked the slave urgently, "Where's the fence heading toward the hog pen to get saved?" The slave replied, "You don't really have to wallow in the mud, you just gotta be willing to."

SOURCES:

Lectures to My Students by Spurgeon (Baker Book House)

REVIEW PRIDE - STEP 30

1. What sin does God hate the most? _____
2. How long has it been around? _____
3. In your own words give three descriptions of pride:

4. Paul said, “ _____ I am what I am.”
5. Christians ought to _____ praise.
6. All we deserve is _____. Anything better than that is

7. A proud person is easily _____
8. What three things does pride stop a person from saying?

9. Pride produces _____ living.
10. Define respect of persons: _____

11. Name two of pride's victims and describe their problem:

12. I can do all things _____

13. Did you pass all of Pride's Quiz? _____

14. What is the end of pride?

15. Name the five cures for pride:

16. Does a proud person always know he is proud? _____

17. _____ is the stone of which most _____ stumble.

18. Why is the altar call so important? _____

19. God gives _____ to the humble.

20. The slave told his owner "you just gotta _____

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