

4/18/21 - The Problem of Pride

Pride is the root of many sins, and the selfish, self-centered nature.

Sin entered the universe because of pride; Lucifer tried to steal God's position (Isa.14:12-14). Lucifer thought he had become wiser than God and that he could run the universe better. And he wanted all attention drawn to himself.

Pride brings deception, overconfidence, and even a sense of being infallible (Obad.1:3, Gal. 6:3).

Pride is the exaltation of self; it is an exaggeration of one's own importance.

Proud people think they know what is best, and that they can run their lives better than God.

Often, if you give a young person too much recognition or position, it destroys them with pride. They think they have *outgrown* and outlearned their leaders, and soon become corrupt. Prov. 20:21 warns, an inheritance gotten quickly, it's not blessed in the end. A leader should not be too young in the ministry, or he could easily fall into the snare of pride (1 Tim. 3:6).

Pride will bud and blossom in a heart that has not learned deep humility (Ezek. 7:10). Pride can be a temptation to us at any age, however.

Pride makes a person forget God and rely on his own mind (Prov. 3:5, 28:26).

Pride precedes a terrible fall (Prov.16:18, 29:23).

Because of pride, people don't rely on God, but in themselves (2 Chr.16:7-9).

Pride pushes God off the throne, and we become God of our life.

Uzziah was blessed when he sought the Lord (2 Chron. 26:5). But after a time he grew proud, and he intruded into a ministry that God did not give him. (2 Chron. 26:16-21).

Hezekiah was going to die..had his life extended 15 years, but during that time he became proud (2 Chron. 32:24-26). His pride blemished not only his own testimony, it brought the whole nation down in disgrace. When they humbled themselves, God postponed His wrath for a later time (2 Chron. 32:26).

- **Pride is the source of rebellion, defiance, stubbornness, and hardness of heart.** Pride produces the inability to yield to the Word of God, or His prophets (Jer. 43:2, 44:10). For example -
- **King Zedekiah was full of pride. He “humbled not himself before Jeremiah.”** Jeremiah was speaking on behalf of God, but Zedekiah would not listen.
- **Jeremiah told Zedekiah to surrender to Babylon and Jerusalem would be spared (Jer. 38:17,18). Instead, he “rebelled” “stiffened his neck” [i. e. stubbornness], and “hardened his heart.”**
- **His pride resulted in the city being burned, its walls broken down, and the temple being destroyed. - His pride also resulted in his children being slaughtered, and also the nobles of Judah.**
See (2 Chron. 36:17-20, Jer. 39:4-8, 2 Kgs. 25:5-10).
- **Pride is the reason people harden their hearts.**
Zedekiah “hardened his heart from turning unto the Lord God of Israel” (see 2 Chron. 36:13b). A hardened heart comes from *a proud heart*, a heart with plenty of fight left in it.
- **Pharaoh hardened his heart ten times, therefore, God hardened him.**
God would never harden a good man. God applied pressure on Pharaoh to let His people go. Every time God took the pressure off Pharaoh, he hardened his heart and refused to obey (Ex. 8:15). But remember, a hardened heart springs from a very proud heart.
- **In Scripture, every time someone hardened his heart, it brought judgment and not a blessing. Therefore pride (which is the root of a hardened heart), always ends with judgment.**
- **Pride is the reason for jealousy; jealousy demands to be number one.** This is self-exaltation. Satan, who is full of pride, is motivated and tormented with jealousy. His desire is to have full control, all glory, adoration, worship, and attention directed to himself.

- Pride, also is the cause of outbursts of wrath.

Satan, who is full of pride and jealousy, has a very supersensitive ego, as do all proud people. When Satan is finally cast out of heaven and loses his position, he has great wrath (Rev.12:9,12).

- Actually, a proud person is a very weak person because he cannot master his disposition. Jesus, who is meek and humble, has great rest in His soul (Mt.11:29). He is the strongest man ever.
- Pride wants to have a distinguished name or title in order to glorify self.

Pride resorts to intellectualism, using huge, complicated words to sound important. (Jesus used the simplest form of speech, yet He was profound, though humble.)

Pride makes a man “complicated” and over-technical.

Pride seeks to be unequalled, unrivaled, and “unique.” (only one of its kind).

Pride wants to predict the future and be able to say, “I am the first to know.”

“I have figured out all of this out with my brilliant mind ... Glory to me, how great I am.”

The source of all false religions and false doctrines is pride (Obad.1:3).

The founder wanted to create an extraordinary philosophy never known to man before.

Founders of false religions flatter themselves, feeling they are the answer for the world. They believe they are God's special messenger and are highly favored of God above all others. People with false doctrine and error feel they are an elite group.

Pride can be the reason people hold on to their traditions; it makes them feel exclusive to all others.

Pride makes a person pretend to be something he is not, bringing on self-induced pressures. - Humble people can relax and be real. They have nothing to prove and nothing to defend.

(Their approval is from God, not from man.) People of humility have great peace and security. - When you are down (as in humility), no one can ever put you down.

Pride makes it very painful to concede to any faults, failures, or wrongdoings (Lev. 26:40-41). - proud people are easily insulted; they resent correction or suggestions from others.

Pride is at the bottom of many mental and emotional disorders.

Jesus, who was meek and humble, and had great rest in his soul (Mt.11:29).

A proud person gets angry, and will *not accept* his circumstances.

A proud person demands vindication and his “rights.” Jesus *surrendered* His rights. Pride demands an apology for little offenses, and makes it hard for the offender to apologize.

Pride cannot forgive or let go of an offense, but gracious people overlook an offense (Prov.19:11). Pride is absorbed with its own hurts and troubles, and cannot focus on the needs of others.

Pride is sometimes the reason for a lack of self-acceptance.

It requires humility / meekness to accept the way God made us (Isa. 45:9-10).

Some people are angry at God or bitter against their parents because of physical defects or looks. God warns us not to strive with our Maker, or point an accusing finger at parents. Criticize the design, delete is criticizing the designer.

Any time we rise up against God or challenge His wisdom, it is pride (Job 40:2, 40:8, 40:10-11). To challenge or question God is to say that we are wiser and more righteous than God. Pride is an enemy of God. Pride attacks God. So, God resists the proud, and brings them down. - He grants grace only to the humble (Jas. 4:6).

Pride can be the reason for being easily embarrassed, and easily offended. Pride is very protective of itself. Pride can be at the root of certain kinds of fears.

Fear is a major reason people do not go to heaven (Rev. 21:8).

Many fears are of what people will say or think of them.

Because of pride, people refuse to be identified with Christ and His reproach.

(Mark 8:38, Mark 10:32, Luke 9:26, Luke 12:8, John 12:42-43). - Jesus was willing to be vulnerable. He was humble.

Pride is a major reason for having no unity. Only in the low place is there unity.

Pride is the singular reason for debates and arguments (Prov.13:10).

Pride is a factor for not getting along with others, and marriage breakups.

Pride is selfish; it is *the exact opposite* of divine love which is totally unselfish (1 Cor.13:4-7). Love is long-suffering, kind, does not envy, is not proud, does not seek her own interests, not easily provoked, does not rejoice in the calamity of others... and much more. Pride is the very opposite. Selfish.

Pride craves attention, and to be the central focus. In Ezek. 28:2), the prince of Tyre said in his heart, “I am God, I sit in the seat of God”.

The heart of this prince and the heart of Satan were the same. Thus, Satan lived in him. Satan will also inhabit the coming Antichrist. The Antichrist will magnify himself above all gods (Dan.11:36, 2 Thes. 2:3-4).

Pride is the hallmark of our generation; “Men are lovers of their own selves” (2 Tim. 3:1,2).

Peter warns us, “Save yourselves from this [perverse] generation (Acts 2:40).

Pride is *the image of Satan*. (Humility is the image of the Son of God.) Into whose image will we be forged?

The Lamb is a follower of the Father. We are followers of the Lamb Rev.14:1-5. Those who Rank high in heaven, have followed the lamb wherever he goes.

Who does Satan follow? He is a follower of HIMSELF and his own lusts, and own selfish agendas. Pride is the course and thinking of this world, and the way of this world, inspired by the god of this world. Satan. Pride is the reason we do not have perfect victory over Satan—the Proud One.

Humility is the image of the Son of God, who is exalted and given a name above all names. Jesus went lower than any man; therefore, God has exalted Him higher than any other (Phil. 2:5-8).

Satan, who has exalted himself higher than any other, will end up in the lowest place in hell. Why, then, should we ever be proud of our pride?

- “Look upon everyone who is proud, and bring him low” (Job 40:12).

- (See Matthew 23:12, Mark 10:44,45, Luke 14:7-11, 1 Peter 5:6).

• We have no reason to be proud because:

We came into this world as helpless infants; we had no say in the matter.

We did not choose to be strong or infirm, male or female, rich or poor, gifted or less gifted.

We were born with a sinful nature that we cannot change (Jer.13:23).

Any righteousness or blessing we have come from God.

We have no ability or talents but what God has bestowed upon us (Deut. 8:18).

Therefore, how can we boast about *anything*? Let him who glories, glory in the Lord (Jer. 9:23,24). - We cannot control our life or what will happen five minutes from now (Jas. 4:13-16).

We do not have the ability to guide ourselves or understand ourselves. (Jer. 10:23 tells us - It is not in man who walks, to direct himself

- On the day of death, we have no power to save our spirit (Eccl. 8:8).

Therefore, anyone who is proud, is deceived.

Many of our problems are in what we are *thinking*.

Paul urges not to think more highly of ourselves than we ought” (Rom.12:3).

Let's ask God for the spirit of humility, for his light to thoroughly search our hearts. Remember, God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.

We all need a wholesome sense of self worth. We must not be insecure. But we must not have a proud or arrogant opinion of ourselves. Jesus was most humble and meek man who ever lived. Satan was full pride and this destroyed him. Let us thoroughly follow our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen!

