

## DO YOU HAVE PRIDE?

- A. Introduction: Through the Cross of Christ we have been set free from every bondage to sin and its consequences.
1. But, many Christians are still bound by many things. John 11:44
    - a. One of the things that binds us is sinful attitudes.
    - b. In the last lesson we began to talk about pride. Many Christians are bound by pride and bring destruction into their lives through pride.
  2. We want to briefly review some of the things we said about pride in the last lesson.
    - a. Everyone has pride and everyone has selfishness because everyone has flesh. Flesh is the part of you that was not directly affected by the new birth -- your soul (mind, emotions, will) and your body.
      - b. Pride and selfishness work together.
        1. To be selfish means to be self focused or focused on self. Pride exalts self, raises self, and elevates self.
        2. The words for pride in the NT all mean to be high or high minded. Pride exalts or raises and lifts self. Pride thinks more of itself than it ought to think.
      - c. Pride has to do with attitudes and motives. Often times pride is expressed, not in the actions people take, but in the motives and attitudes behind their actions.
        1. You may say, "I don't have pride. I don't go around bragging about myself." And, that is very good.
        2. But, why did you say or do what you just said or did? Was it to elevate yourself or to make yourself look good? That's pride.
      - d. The opposite of pride is humility. Humility means lowliness of mind. Humble means low lying.
        1. Humility is not beating yourself up or having a bad estimate of yourself.
        2. Humility has an accurate picture of itself. Humility sees itself as it really is in relation to God and others.
          - a. Humility toward God means recognizing that without God I am nothing (Gal 6:3), I have nothing (I Cor 4:7), I know nothing (I Cor 8:2), I can do nothing (John 15:5).
          - b. Humility toward others is an attitude of servant-hood. I am here to serve others.
      - e. Pride deceives because pride is based on lies, on untruths. Obadiah 3
        1. Even if you are the greatest, smartest, richest, most talented, and most beautiful person on earth, without God, you are nothing, you have nothing, you know nothing, and you can do nothing.
        2. You cannot take credit for what is not your work. You are God's creation. You are God's workmanship. If there is anything good about you and your life, the credit goes to Him.
  3. Jesus is our example of humility. When He was on this earth, He lived a life of humility. We are to walk even as He walked. I John 2:6
    - a. Jesus lived in complete dependence on the Father and He knew He was the servant of all. John 6:57; 7:16; 14:10,11; Mark 10:45; Luke 22:27
    - b. Jesus did not have to exalt Himself because He knew who He was, a son of God, fully acceptable to the Father. And He knew true promotion comes from the Lord. Phil 2:8,9
- B. That brings up a question which needs to be answered. Is it wrong to want people to think well of you, to have people praise you?
1. All of us have a genuine need for love, acceptance, and a sense of value and self worth. We want

people to appreciate us. That is not wrong in and of itself. If you do something nice for someone or do a good job on something, we all want recognition for it. But, keep these thoughts in mind.

- a. Our flesh is corrupt and overdeveloped, so it is possible to have an inordinate need for peoples' approval.
  - b. But, the normal, natural desire for appreciation is not really what we are talking about in these lessons on pride. We are talking about your inner motives and attitudes. Why do you do what you do?
    1. Is your motive (the reason why you did or said what you did) to draw attention to you, to draw a response from people, a praise from people?
    2. If so, that is pride because your focus is self and your motive is to exalt self.
  - c. If someone does not give you the appreciation and praise that is the appropriate response to what you have done, it is between them and God. You have to let it go, not take offense, and walk in love, forgiveness, and humility toward them.
  - d. Listen to what the apostle Paul said: I Thess 2:6--Nor did we seek to extract praise and honor and glory from men, either from you or anyone else, though we might have asserted our authority (stood on our dignity and claimed honor as apostles (special missionaries) of Christ, the Messiah. (Amp)
2. Our motive should not be to show off ourselves, but to show off Jesus.
    - a. We are supposed to be like Jesus. He did not seek His own glory. John 8:50, 7:18
      1. John 5:41--I receive not glory from men -- I crave no human honor, I look for no mortal fame. (Amp)
      2. John 5:44--How is it possible for you to believe -- how can you learn to believe -- who [are content to seek for and] receive praise and honor and glory from one another, and do not seek the praise and honor and glory which comes from Him Who alone is God? (Amp)
    - b. We are to seek the praise and honor that comes from God by living a life of humility.
  3. If you are seeking the honor and glory that comes from man, you are not seeking the honor that comes from God. Jesus said so. John 5:44
    - a. We all want to be liked and appreciated, but it cannot be at the expense of God's glory. When I am focused on myself, I am not glorifying to God. When I want credit for something in me that came from God I am not glorifying God.
    - b. I Cor 4:7--What makes you better than anyone else? What do you have that God hasn't given you? And if all you have is from God, why boast as though you have accomplished something on your own? (New Living)
  4. I John 2:16--You must realize that all of us have the pride of life in our flesh.
    - a. The pride of life wants to say: I did it my way. Praise me. Look at me.
    - b. The pride of life dresses to be notices, talks to be notices, acts in such a way as to be noticed.
- C. Most sincere Christians realize that pride is not a good thing and that we are supposed to be humble. The problem is, it can be difficult to recognize pride in ourselves. So, we want to take time to look at some indicators of pride to help us spot it in ourselves.
1. Do you always talk about yourself? Jesus said that is pride. John 7:18
    - a. Do you manage to work you and your accomplishments, your opinions, your revelations, your possessions, your insights, your experience, into the conversation?
    - b. Why? Are you trying to impress people with what you are saying? Is your goal to get man's approval? All of that is pride.
  2. Pride has to let you know that I know something about the subject so that you will be impressed with

- me. Pride tries to impress. Matt 6:5; Luke 18:10-12
- a. But, that is based on falsehood. If there is something impressive about you that is impressive, word will get out. It will be obvious to people. You will not have to draw attention to it.
  - b. Ask yourself: Why are you saying that, telling that piece of information? To bless them or to impress them? To get a response from them about how smart you are, how perceptive you are, about how spiritual you are, what revelations you have?
  - c. Pride demands to be noticed. Pride demands to be respected. Pride has an opinion on everything. Even if you've never been there, never owned one, have no personal knowledge of the person or situation, you believe you are qualified to comment or you want your listener to think you are qualified to comment.
3. Pride is not interested in others, their situation, their views. Pride is not a good listener and pride is an interrupter. James 2:19; Prov 17:27
    - a. My views are the only ones worth listening to. My time is too valuable to spend listening to something I don't care about or agree with.
    - b. I can't let you finish your sentence because I already know what you are going to say and I don't want to waste my time. What I have to say is much more important than what you have to say.
    - c. Humility listens even when it is sure it is right out of respect for the other person. Humility accepts the possibility that it may be missing some information on the subject which the other person may have. Even if I know I'm right, humility will cause me to seriously listen to you.
      1. Phil 2:3,4--Don't be selfish; don't live to make a good impression on others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourself. Don't think only about your own affairs, but be interested in others, too, and what they are doing. (New Living)
      2. Phil 2:3--Instead, in the true spirit of humility (lowliness of mind) let each regard the other as better than and superior to himself -- thinking more highly of one another than you do of yourselves. (Amp)
  4. Pride does not ask for help. Proverbs says that there is victory and safety in wise counsel or instruction. Prov 11:14; 15:22; 24:6
    - a. Pride doesn't ask for help because it doesn't want to admit it doesn't know something. It doesn't want others to know it needs help and can't handle something by itself.
    - b. Pride doesn't want others to get credit for success because they've told you what to do.
    - c. Proverbs contrasts fools with those who are wise. Fool in Proverbs means a rebel, a self focused one, one who says: I'll do it my way.
  5. Pride doesn't accept correction and instruction. Pride does not want to be taught or corrected. Pride does not follow instructions. Prov 17:10
    - a. Pride knows a better way. Pride says: I already know that. Pride doesn't accept the fact that someone else may have new light on it. I Cor 8:1,2
    - b. Pride doesn't want to admit it doesn't know something. Pride doesn't want to admit that you know something I don't know. Pride doesn't want to admit: You are right and I am wrong.
    - c. Pride wants to feel unique. You just don't understand me, my ability, my wisdom, my situation. If you did, you would agree with me.
  6. Pride is an arguer (I Tim 6:4). The word proud in I Tim 6:4 means fool.
    - a. Pride won't let it go. Pride has to have the last word.
    - b. Pride is defensive. Pride justifies itself. Pride makes excuses rather than apologies.
    - c. Trying to prove you are right is pride. Why? You believe you can't be wrong or that you don't want someone else thinking you are wrong when you are right.
  7. Trying to make someone do something is pride. Why? You are exalting yourself to a position of

superiority. You are their corrector. Yes, but I have the wisdom that they need. Consider these points.

- a. Maybe your wisdom isn't as helpful as you think it is. That is pride -- overestimating yourself.
- b. Even if your wisdom is exactly what they need to hear, the Holy Spirit does not make anyone do anything. We are not to try to make people do things.
- c. James 3:17--But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and good deeds. It shows no partiality and is always sincere.

D. Conclusion: We have not yet said everything we need to say about pride or about indicators of pride. But, as we close, consider these points.

1. Notice the common denominator in all of these examples. Pride exalts self.
  - a. Pride puts me above you -- even if it's only in my own mind. Pride comes from a position of superiority.
  - b. I am superior to you because I know something you don't know, I have something you don't have, I can do something you can't do.
2. Your flesh, my flesh, naturally wants to rule over others. One way we do that is by making ourselves superior to others, by exalting ourselves.
  - a. We don't realize we do it. We believe we have good reasons for doing it.
  - b. But, it is ugly. It is un-Christ-like. God hates it. It brings destruction into our lives.  
Prov 6:16,17; 8:13; 16:5; 21:4; 11:2; 15:25; 16:18; 29:23
3. We have to be brutally honest with ourselves. Why do you do what you do and say what you say? What is your motive?
  - a. When you see pride in yourself, admit it, confess it. It is a sin.
  - b. Purpose in your heart to get rid of that motive. Receive God's forgiveness. Get up and go on.
  - c. Purpose in your heart that you are going to learn to walk in humility in every area of your life -- just as Jesus did.