

## MORE INDICATORS OF PRIDE

- A. Introduction: Through the Cross of Christ we have been set free from every bondage to sin and its consequences. But many Christians are still bound by many things. One of the things that binds us is sinful attitudes. One of those attitudes is pride. In the last two lessons we have been discussing pride. We want to continue with it in this lesson.
1. We need to briefly review some of the key points we have already covered.
    - a. Pride exalts self, lifts self, elevates self. Pride thinks of itself more highly than it ought to think.
    - b. Pride has to do with attitudes and motives. Much of the time, pride is not the action you take, but the motive behind your action.
      1. Pride is more than going around bragging about yourself, although that is definitely pride.
      2. Why did you say or do what you just did or said? Was it to elevate yourself or to make yourself look good? That's pride.
    - c. Pride has to be dealt with. It is a sin. 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
  2. Most sincere Christians realize that pride is not a good thing. The problem is, it can be difficult to recognize in ourselves. In the last lesson we began to look at some indicators of pride to help us spot it in ourselves. We made these points.
    - a. Pride talks about itself. Pride manages to work itself into every conversation and the purpose is to make self look good. John 7:18
    - b. Pride tries to impress. It says what it says and does what it does to impress people. Matt 6:5
    - c. Pride does whatever it can to be noticed. Pride demands respect. Pride has an opinion on everything. Luke 18:10-12
    - d. Pride is not interested in others, their views, their situation. Pride is not a good listener. Pride is an interrupter. James 2:19; Prov 17:27; Phil 2:3,4
    - e. Pride does not ask for help. Pride does not want to be taught or corrected. Pride does not follow instructions. Pride cannot admit it does not know something or cannot do something. Pride does not want others to know it does not know something or cannot do something. I Cor 8:1,2
    - f. Pride is an arguer. Pride won't let it go. Pride has to have the last word. Pride tries to prove it is right. I Tim 6:4
    - g. Pride tries to make people do things. Pride is a corrector of others. James 3:17
- B. In this lesson we want to look at some additional indicators of pride to help us spot it in ourselves. Here are some more indicators of pride.
1. Does it bother you when you don't get the attention you think you deserve, when you are ignored, or when someone else gets the credit you believe you deserve? That's pride. Luke 10:38-42
    - a. Yes, but, isn't it right for people to praise me when I've done a good job?
      1. It may be totally right and completely appropriate for someone to praise you. But, if they don't, it's between them and God. You can't take offense. You have to forgive and go on.
      2. However, we are not supposed to be doing anything for the purpose of gaining the praise of men. Why do you do what you do? To be noticed, to be praised? That's pride. Col 3:22-24
      3. Should your boss, spouse, co-worker, friend, etc. be appreciative of you? Certainly, if you are fulfilling your responsibilities. But, that is between them and God. Right now, we are not talking about their attitudes, we are talking about your attitudes.
    - b. The opposite of pride is humility. Humility recognizes that without God, it is nothing. Humility recognizes that it is a servant of God and man.

1. Luke 17:7-10--If you truly see yourself as a servant, you understand your duty before God and man. It is to serve.
2. When you serve, your attitude is not, "Where is the credit for what I have done?", but rather, "I'm just doing my job".
2. Pride is not interested in other people's issues. Pride assumes others are interested in me.
  - a. Pride is so focused on self it doesn't recognize that it has interrupted people or that people are not interested in listening to you.
  - b. Humility asks others what they think. Humility asks others how they are doing. Humility asks them questions about their lives, their interests. Humility is considerate of other people's time. Humility asks: Is this a good time to talk? Am I interrupting you?
  - c. 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)
3. Pride minimizes or takes away from other people's blessings and revelations. I Cor 8:1,2
  - a. Someone excitedly tells you about their new car and you tell them how that particular model has design flaws. Why did you say that? To draw attention to yourself and your superior knowledge? To bring them down a notch? That's all pride.
  - b. Someone shares a revelation they got from the Bible and you act like you already knew it -- even though you didn't. Or you correct them on some detail of their explanation. That's pride.
  - c. Do you always find a way to put a negative spin on someone else's blessing or revelation or do you always manage to find the one detail that isn't perfect in it? That is pride.
4. Pride wants to be different from everyone else. I Cor 10:13; Eccl 1:9
  - a. All humans have a desire to feel unique and special. And, to God, we are unique and special. But, our flesh has been corrupted by sin and the natural desires are often greatly inflated or perverted.
    1. The desire to be unique becomes: I know I'm supposed to do it this way. I know the rules, the instructions, the Bible, the pastor, the boss, etc., said to do it this way, but, I'm just different. I'm not like most people. I have a different way.
    2. That's pride. In the first place, you don't know "most people". In the second place, pride likes to think, "I'm special". I'm not like other men. I'm superior because I fast and pray. Luke 18:10-12
  - b. That kind of attitude can lead to justifying a whole lot of ungodly behavior.
    1. I don't need to pray, study, practice, etc., because I'm different.
    2. I don't have to obey in this area because I'm different. I know the sign says only twelve items in the express lane and I have thirty, but I'm special. I'm in a hurry. My time is more valuable than the other people in line. Don't tell me to rejoice. Don't tell me to obey the Bible.
    3. No one understands what I am dealing with. I'm the only one who feels this way. No one has gone through what I am going through.
5. Pride makes excuses when it is wrong in order to make it look as though it is not wrong.
  - a. Pride says: I know that was wrong, but I had a good reason for doing it. I had a bad day, I feel lonely, I was hurt, I was frustrated, I deserve it, etc.
  - b. Humility says: I was wrong. Period. Please forgive me. Period. Pride makes excuses rather than apologies. An apology with an excuse is not a true apology.
  - c. Luke 15:21--The prodigal son messed up. He admitted it without any excuses.
6. The root of anger and strife is often times pride. Prov 13:10; 21:24; 28:25
  - a. Anger arises when things don't go the way you believe they should go or the way you want them

to go. Pride motivates us to win at all costs and we get into strife. What is right becomes secondary to who is right.

- b. Anger comes when something happens that disregards your opinion. The root of that can be pride: My way is the best way. Can't this idiot see it? You've exalted yourself and made yourself superior.
  - c. When things annoy you, bother you, bug you, the root can be pride. It isn't going the way I wanted and my way is best. They don't see it the way I see it, and I am right.
  - d. Pride gets angry when there is no real reason to be angry. When you find yourself irritated, bugged, or angry, ask yourself: Why am I angry?
    1. We get angry about issues that have nothing to do with us because it is hard to accept the fact that a sane, reasonable person could see things differently from us. That person with a different opinion didn't wrong you or disrespect you. Your belief was not affirmed and you are angry. That's pride.
    2. Prov 11:12--He who belittles and despises his neighbor lacks sense, but a man of understanding keeps silent. (Amp)
7. Pride has trouble receiving help from others.
    - a. If I accept help from you, it is an admission that I am deficient or lacking in some area.
    - b. Pride does not allow you to acknowledge in front of others that you aren't perfect or that you do make mistakes.
  8. Pride sees and knows what is wrong with everyone and wants to correct everyone. Matt 7:6
    - a. This kind of pride can be hard to spot because it can be disguised as, "I'm helping them". But, what you've done is put yourself in a position of superiority. You know best. You can fix it.
    - b. This kind of pride can be disguised as: "If I don't help them, who will?" That's pride, because you have just said, that in this entire universe, you are the only person qualified to help in this situation (never mind the Holy Ghost!)
  9. Pride wants to be first, to be in charge, to be the boss. Mark 10:42
    - a. Does it bother you to be second fiddle, to be the low man on the totem pole, to be behind the scenes? That could be pride.
    - b. How do you deal with it when other people are praised for their accomplishments and you aren't? I Cor 12:26
    - c. Can you be content knowing that God knows what you did -- without taking pride in the fact that God knows what I did?!
- C. Obadiah 3--Pride is based on deception or thinking of yourself above what is true.
1. That desire of the flesh to exalt itself (pride) causes us to assess ourselves above what we are.
    - a. But, because it is deceptive, we don't recognize it. We believe the lie that we are better than we are.
    - b. Think of the American Idol program. Terrible singers try out for the show. Pride (based on the deception or lie that they are good singers) blinds them to the reality that they can't sing.
  2. Reality is: 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).
    - a. Even if you are the greatest, smartest, richest, most talented, and most beautiful person on the face of the earth, without God, you are nothing, you have nothing, you know nothing, and you can do nothing.
    - b. Pride takes the credit for what was and is the grace of God.
      1. Pride wants the glory for the ability we have, for the revelation we have.

2. I studied, I prayed, I fasted. No, God revealed it to you and He gets the credit.
- c. You cannot take credit for what is not your work. You are God's creation. You are His workmanship. If there is anything good about you the credit goes to Him.
- d. Anything that comes "natural" to you or is easy for you is a grace. You can have it from birth or it can be given to you at or after the new birth. But, everything good in us is a grace. Rom 12:3
3. It is not pride to say and believe good things about yourself as long as they are true.
  - a. Humility is not beating yourself up. Jesus did not beat Himself up and He was humble. Beating yourself up is just as self focused as praising yourself for how great you are. The problem is:
    1. We think things about ourselves that aren't true. We think that we have something or are something apart from God or that we are superior to or above others in some way.
    2. Or, we take the credit for something that is not our doing. I deserve to be praised because of my wisdom, my beauty, my ability, my talent. But, it all came from God.
  - b. Humility sees things as they really are. Without God, I am nothing, but in Him, I have all things, I am the righteousness of God in Christ, I am a son of God, I can do all things through Christ.
- D. Conclusion: We have not said all there is to say about pride, but, as we close this lesson, remember:
  1. Listen to these lessons for yourself. All of us know someone who really needs to hear this tape. Forget about them and concentrate on what the Lord wants to show you about your pride -- and you do have pride. We all have pride.
  2. As the ugly stuff is exposed, remember: You are a finished work in progress -- fully God's son, fully acceptable to Him. You aren't yet fully conformed to the image of Christ, but He who has begun a good work in you will complete it. I John 3:2; Rom 8:29; Phil 1:6