

## PRIDE

- A. Introduction: Through the Cross of Christ, we have been redeemed or set free from bondage to sin and the curse or consequence of sin. Gal 3:13
1. From God's point of view, everyone of us is free from every sin, every bondage. But, many of us don't walk in the freedom God has provided. John 8:44
    - a. There are many reasons why we do not walk in the freedom God has provided for us -- lack of knowledge, unbelief, etc. But, a primary reason why we do not experience what Jesus has provided for us is wrong attitudes in ourselves, sinful attitudes which bind us and keep us in bondage.
    - b. We want to begin to deal with some of those attitudes over the next several weeks. In this lesson we will begin with pride.
  2. As we work through these lessons, keep several thoughts in mind.
    - a. We are all finished works in progress. You are fully God's son, fully acceptable to God.
      1. Your sins are remitted, fully paid for. You have the very life and nature of God in your recreated spirit (I John 5:11,12; II Pet 1:4; II Cor 5:17). But, your soul and body are not yet fully conformed to the image of Christ. I John 3:2
      2. However, God deals with you, accepts you, on the basis of the part that is finished. And He who has begun a good work in you will complete it. Phil 1:6
    - b. As we study, and as ugly stuff in your character is exposed to you, don't beat yourself up. Deal with it by the grace and power of God.
    - c. Listen to these lessons for yourself. Everybody knows somebody who really needs to hear these lessons. Forget about them and let the Lord deal with you.
- B. All people have pride because people are selfish. Pride is one way selfishness expresses itself.
1. That can be difficult to accept about ourselves, because most of us don't see ourselves as selfish. "I'm not selfish. I'm a nice person. I do a lot for people.", etc.
    - a. But, the Bible says we are self focused (Isa 53:6). One of the reasons Jesus died was to turn us from self toward God and others. II Cor 5:15; Matt 22:37-39
    - b. Isa 14:12-14--Pride and selfishness are twin traits of the devil. Note, five times, the devil said to himself "I will". His focus was on self and the point of his motives and actions was to exalt self.
    - c. Those traits became part of the human race with the fall of Adam. Gen 4:1-9; I John 3:10,12
  2. Selfishness and pride are part of our flesh, part of the portion of us which was not directly affected by the new birth. Everyone has pride and selfishness in them because everyone has flesh. Everyone has to deal with pride and selfishness.
    - a. To be selfish means to be self focused or focused on self. You put self first. You do what you do (even nice things) for you.
    - b. Pride and selfishness work together. To be selfish means to be self focused or focused on self. Pride exalts self, raises and elevates self.
  3. Several Greek words are translated pride and proud in the NT.
    - a. One word, HUPEREPHANOS, means appearing above others (Rom 1:30; II Tim 3:2; James 4:6; I Pet 5:5). It is always used in the Bible in the bad sense of arrogant, disdainful, proud.
    - b. Another word for proud is also translated high minded or lifted up. I Tim 3:6; I Tim 6:4; II Tim 3:4
    - c. The phrase high minded is also used to indicate pride.
      1. I Tim 6:17--Proud and arrogant and contemptuous of others (Amp); proud (New Living).
      2. Rom 11:20--Do not become proud and conceited (Amp); Don't think highly of yourself (New

Living).

- d. Note the common element in each word for pride: To be high or high minded. Pride exalts or raises and lifts self.

C. Pride is the opposite of humility. To be proud is the opposite of being humble. James 4:6; I Pet 5:5; Ps 138:6; Prov 3:34

1. Humility means to go low. Humility is an attitude of mind and heart toward God, toward self, and toward others.
  - a. Humility toward God is an attitude of complete and total dependence on God for everything.
  - b. Humility recognizes that without God, apart from Him, in myself:
    1. I am nothing. Gal 6:3
    2. I know nothing. I Cor 8:2
    3. I have nothing. I Cor 4:7
    4. I can do nothing. John 15:5
  - c. Humility toward others is an attitude of servant-hood. I am here to serve others.
2. Jesus is our example of humility (or no pride). When He was on this earth, He lived a life of humility (the opposite of pride). We are to walk even as He walked. Phil 2:7,8; I John 2:6
  - a. Jesus lived in total 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. Sometimes people misunderstand humility. They think it means shame over sin. But, that can't be the full meaning of humility because Jesus was humble and He had no sin.
  - c. Sometimes people think to be humble means to beat yourself up. Jesus was humble, yet He knew exactly who He was and confessed it. John 6:48; 8:12,18,58; 10:7,11
3. One might ask: How can I see myself as less than someone, as a servant, when I am clearly better? Or, how can I see myself as not gifted when I am clearly gifted? Jesus did it, so it must be possible.
  - a. When you see your complete dependence on God, you'll realize that what you have and are came from Him and He gets the credit and praise for it. Jer 9:23,24
  - 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)
  - c. Rom 12:3--For by the grace (unmerited favor of God) given to me I warn everyone among you not to estimate and think of himself more highly than he ought -- not to have an exaggerated opinion of his own importance; but to rate his ability with sober judgment each according to the degree of faith apportioned to him by God to him. (Amp)

D. Obadiah 3--Pride is based on lies and pride deceives us. Pride involves deception.

1. Pride leads us to believe we aren't dependent on God in every area and therefore we can do it our own way. We know what is best for us.
  - a. Pride leads us to believe we have good reason to promote ourselves and good reason not to serve others.
  - b. Pride can lead us to lie and deceive, all for what we believe are good reasons: to promote ourselves and to protect ourselves.
2. 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.
  - a. For example, prayer is a good thing. But, two people could pray with two entirely different motives -- one coming out of humility and the other coming out of pride.

1. One prayer could be a heartfelt expression of love for God and man, and the other could be an expression of pride.
2. Matt 6:5--Jesus said the motive for this prayer was to be seen of men, which is pride.
- b. Sharing wisdom from the word of God is a good thing. But, why are you doing it? So people will be impressed with what you know and praise you for it? Or so that the people will be lifted up, instructed, and encouraged and God will be glorified?
- c. Jesus never took credit for one miracle, one sermon, one healing. He said: The Father in me does it. I do His works. I speak His words. John 14:10,11
3. Does this mean that it is pride to think well of yourself? That you cannot think highly of yourself? No. To beat yourself up because of how rotten you are is just as self focused as exalting and praising yourself for how great you are.
  - a. The issue is having an accurate picture of yourself: Without Him, I have nothing, am nothing, know nothing, and can do nothing. Pride believes and tells lies. Humility is based on reality.
  - b. Humility is not running yourself down or refusing praise. That can be false humility which is pride. While you are refusing the praise on the outside, you are basking in it on the inside, and priding yourself on your humility.
  - c. Humility is recognizing that the praises, the credit, belongs to God, not to you. If He took His help and grace away, you'd have nothing, know nothing, be nothing, do nothing.
  - d. When someone gets saved or helped or healed, do you make sure everyone knows that you witnessed to them or prayed for them? Why? That could be pride.
4. Does this mean it is wrong to want praise from men? That depends.
  - a. All of us have a genuine need for love, acceptance, and a sense of worth and value, but we get it out of order.
    1. We were created to live for God and others. That is the place where we experience true love, acceptance, and self-worth.
    2. Because we have grown up in a fallen world with corrupt flesh, our focus is on self and we seek those things for ourselves from others. But, if we will seek the glory of God and the good of others, we would get those things in their proper order.
    3. If the praise comes to us because we reflect the glory of God, His character and power, His grace and gifts in us, that is the proper order. Matt 5:16
  - b. John 5:44; 12:43--There is praise that comes from men and there is praise that comes from men. If you seek the honor that comes from men, it blinds you to reality (deceives you). Dan 5:20
5. You also have to realize that because your flesh is proud and selfish, not only does it want praise and credit, it wants to be exalted or above others.
  - a. One way it is exalted over others is by ruling over others. Mark 10:42--So Jesus called them together and said, "You know that in this world kings are tyrants, and officials lord it over the people beneath them." (New Living)
  - b. We can't all be kings, or the most powerful, or the strongest, so we have to find other ways to exalt ourselves and rule over others. One way we do it is through thoughts and attitudes in us: He's an idiot. How could anyone be so stupid as to believe like that or act like that. All of that can be an expression of pride.
6. Pride is deceptive. It believes lies and tells lies. Pride tells you it is good and right to act this way, feel this way.
  - a. But, pride brings destruction into our lives. Prov 11:2; 15:25; 16:18; 29:23
  - b. James 4:6; I Pet 5:5--God's grace (His help, His strength) is toward those who are humble, but the proud are on their own. Pride is an expression of independence from God.

- E. Conclusion: Look at how God sees pride: Prov 6:16,17; 8:13; 16:5; 21:4. God hates pride. We need to hate it, too. We need to hate pride in ourselves.
1. Forget about pride in other people. Identifying pride in others is a form of pride (Matt 7:4,5). Ask God to reveal pride in you to you and then purpose to deal with it.
  2. You have to be brutally honest with yourself about your motives. Honestly assess why you do what you do, think what you think, and say what you say?
    - a. Is it for your good and glory or for God's good and His glory. Is it to raise you up or to raise someone else up? Is it to bless someone else or to bless you?
    - b. When you do see pride in yourself, don't beat yourself up and wallow in it. Remember, that is just as self focused as praising yourself to everyone.
  3. Pride is a sin. Admit it. That means confess it to God. Then, purpose to turn from it in that area and receive (which means accept) His forgiveness and get up and go on.
    - a. To repent means to turn around, to change your mind. When you became a Christian, you turned from living for self to living for God.
    - b. But, now, part of growing and maturing as a Christian is having areas in our lives where we aren't committed and submitted to God but didn't know it, exposed to us so we can deal with them.
    - c. Your initial choice to serve the Lord has to be reinforced by hundreds of other daily choices.
  4. Remember, Jesus is our example of how sons of God live on this earth, of how sons of God walk in humility and not pride.
    - a. By the life of God, the life of the Father in Him, Jesus lived in perfect humility. We have the same life in us He had in Him when He was on this earth.
    - b. And, when the ugliness of pride is exposed in you to you, remember, despite your failures, you have the same standing before God that Jesus had when He was on this earth because He is your standing.
    - c. We are sons of God and we are being conformed to the image of Christ. And, He who has begun a good work in us will complete it.