

Pride

“Now therefore there is utterly a fault among you, because ye go to law one with another. Why do ye not rather take wrong? why do ye not rather suffer yourselves to be defrauded?”

I Corinthians 6:7

Introduction:

1. We studied I Corinthians 6 this morning, where we discovered the introductory text above to use tonight also.
2. Paul argued there was an easy way to end all disputes with brethren – take the loss; but pride will not let go.

What is it?

- A. **Pride.** A high or overweening opinion of one’s own qualities, attainments, or estate, which gives rise to a feeling and attitude of superiority over and contempt for others; inordinate self-esteem.
- B. Bible synonyms for pride include arrogancy, conceit, haughtiness, loftiness, highminded, glory, stoutness of heart, a lifted up heart, and being puffed up.
- C. Consider a wonderful verse like Jeremiah 48:29, which combines several of these synonyms to help.
- D. It is deceitful to think more highly of yourself than you ought to think (Romans 12:3; Galatians 6:3).
- E. Bible antonyms for pride include humility, humbleness of mind, meekness, and poverty of spirit.
- F. **Humility.** The quality of being humble or having a lowly opinion of oneself; meekness, lowliness: the opposite of pride or haughtiness. **Humble.** Having a low estimate of one’s importance, worthiness, or merits; marked by absence of self-assertion or self-exaltation.
- G. The first sin was Satan’s pride. We know it from I Tim 3:6; we read Isaiah 14:12-14; Ezek 28:12-17.
- H. How severe was the punishment of the devil? He and his are reserved for everlasting torment in hell.
- I. Pride is one of the devil’s principles tricks to lead us to sin (I John 2:16 cp Luke 4:9-13 cp Gen 3:6).
- J. You avoid visual stimulus to fight lust of the eyes; you create limits for things for lust of the flesh.
- K. But the pride of life is carried with you all the time in all your thoughts and can cause sin instantly.
- L. The LORD gave Nebuchadnezzar a severe lesson to reject pride and learn humility (Dan 4:28-37).

What are its symptoms?

- A. Pride has little use for God, because of intense feelings of self-sufficiency (Psalm 10:4; Hos 7:10).
- B. Pride causes picking on those below you, because of intense feelings of superiority (Psalm 10:2).
- C. Pride causes haughty speech of presumption and disrespect of honorable things (Ps 59:12; Pr 14:3).
- D. Pride causes contention and fighting, because a proud cannot forgive or overlook (Pr 13:10; 21:24).
- E. Pride causes excessive talking, because a person is in love with hearing himself (Eccl 10:12-14).
- F. Pride causes men to slip in a few little tidbits about their ability or difficult life (Prov 25:27; 27:2).
- G. Pride causes men to resent correction, because they are stubborn in their own conceit (Prov 26:16).
- H. If you take the time to think about sins, you can allocate them to the three categories (I John 2:16), but most of them will flow from the pride of man that is ready at an instant in every human heart.
 1. Why does a person backbite, bear tales, or whisper about others? It is not lust of eyes or flesh!
 2. Why is a person discontented to whine about circumstances? They think they deserve better!
 3. Why do some have a difficult time forgiving others? They honor themselves by others’ faults.
 4. Why does a spouse wait for the other spouse to make-up first? Pride keeps them from going!
 5. What is the root cause of covetousness, ignoring the sight of the eyes? Pride to be the best!

What are its consequences?

- A. You are going down. “Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall” (Pr 16:18).
- B. And, “Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, and before honour is humility” (Prov 18:12).
- C. And, “A man’s pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit” (Pr 29:23).
- D. The LORD cannot stand pride in a man, who is but a worm, so He will fight (Da 4:37; Ac 12:21-23).

- E. God resisteth the proud (James 4:6-10; I Pet 5:5-6). These words should strike fear in your souls!
- F. It steals caution and tempts to foolish and unnecessary risks (Pr 25:8; 26:12; Ob 1:1-4; I Cor 10:12).
- G. It steals prudence and tempts to men to ignore wise counsel and do things their own way (Pr 26:16).
- H. It steals prudence and tempts men to continue pressing a situation where they have already lost.

What are its cures?

- A. The fear of the Lord, truly humbling yourself before God, is to hate pride and arrogance (Prov 8:13).
- B. Seek a contrite heart –broken with repentance – and tremble before God’s word (Is 66:2; Mic 6:6-8).
- C. Get a good view of God and stand in awe of Him (Psalm 4:4). It helped Job a whole lot (Job 42:5-6).
- D. Pray as a fool, telling God sincerely from your heart you are very ignorant and helpless (Ps 131:1-2).
 - 1. Remember Solomon’s prayer of being a little child and not knowing what to do (I Kings 3:5-15).
 - 2. Remember Jehoshaphat’s prayer of no might and not knowing what to do (II Chron 20:1-19).
 - 3. Never pray as the arrogant Pharisee with the self-righteous attitude of superiority (Luke 18:11).
 - 4. Become as a little child without the pompous attitude of self-sufficiency of adults (Matt 18:1-4).
 - 5. Pray for your enemies, which a man with active pride cannot do easily (Matthew 5:43-48).
- E. Novices and all inexperienced young men should wait their turn to be in any spotlight (I Tim 3:6).
- F. Have a holy hatred inside at anything that even smells like a backdoor compliment (Pr 25:27; 27:2).
- G. Everything you have and are is by the gift of God; do not glory in your accomplishments (I Cor 4:7).
- H. Let your weaknesses out, rather than hiding them, so others will have true knowledge (II Cor 12:9).
- I. Appreciate correction and warnings from others and confess your faults (Ps 141:5; Pr 27:6; Ja 5:16).
- J. Avoid striving with any person for vainglory; instead learn to esteem them better than you (Phil 2:3).
- K. Work carefully at making others and their things more important than you and your things (Phil 2:4).
 - 1. Do you ask about things of others and avoid talking about your own things as much as possible?
 - 2. Do you listen well? Or are you already thinking about what you are going to say to them next?
 - 3. Do you compliment freely? Or are you better at criticizing? Or working yourself into the mix?
- L. Consider and learn to emulate the spirit of Jesus Christ in humbling Himself to the cross (Phil 2:5-8).
- M. Settle all differences with others as quickly as you can, contrary to pride (Matthew 5:23-24).
- N. Be agreeable; be unpretentious; consider the uncomely; think lowly of yourself (Romans 12:16).
- O. Do not compare yourself with others, for you can always find someone that is worse (II Cor 10:12).
- P. Learn true charity, which does not vaunt itself, is not puffed up, seeks not her own (I Cor 13:4-7).
- Q. Focus on serving others, which is the secret to being the greatest (Luke 22:24-27; Ezek 16:49-50).
- R. Don’t let your right hand know what your left hand does in charity and service (Matthew 6:1-4).
- S. True humility does not practice self-denigration excessively. Learn Paul’s balance (I Cor 15:10).
- T. Humility can never negate or restrict godly authority or confidence in truth (I Tim 4:12; Titus 2:15).

Conclusion:

- 1. God hates pride, and He will destroy you and the work of your hands if you have very much of it in you.
- 2. In maximizing your relationships, as in I Corinthians 6:7, let things go and suffer yourself to be defrauded.
- 3. Be subject to others and put on humility; God resists the proud; God gives grace to the humble (I Pet 5:5).

For additional study:

- 1. Commentary on Proverbs 11:02: http://www.letgodbetrue.com/Proverbs/11_02.htm.
- 2. Commentary on Proverbs 13:10: http://www.letgodbetrue.com/Proverbs/13_10.htm.
- 3. Commentary on Proverbs 15:25: http://www.letgodbetrue.com/Proverbs/15_25.htm.
- 4. Commentary on Proverbs 16:18: http://www.letgodbetrue.com/Proverbs/16_18.htm.
- 5. Commentary on Proverbs 18:12: http://www.letgodbetrue.com/Proverbs/18_12.htm.
- 6. Commentary on Proverbs 26:12: http://www.letgodbetrue.com/Proverbs/26_12.htm.
- 7. Commentary on Proverbs 28:25: http://www.letgodbetrue.com/Proverbs/28_25.htm.
- 8. Sermon, “The Lie of Self-Love”: http://www.letgodbetrue.com/Sermons/pdf/Lie_of_Selflove.pdf.
- 9. Sermon, “The Lie of Unconditional Love”: http://www.letgodbetrue.com/Sermons/pdf/Lie_of_Unconditional_Love.pdf.