

CORINTH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

STUDIES IN PROVERBS

LESSON 9: PRIDE

SCRIPTURE READING:

- “A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood” (Prov 6:17)
- “The integrity of the upright shall guide them: but the perverseness of transgressors shall destroy them” (Prov 11:3).
- “Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord: though hand join in hand, he shall not be unpunished” (Prov 16:5).

INTRODUCTION:

A. Pride is defined as: an excessively high opinion of oneself; to be high minded; excessive love and focus oneself; a mental sin; a high opinion of one’s abilities, worth or personality; to be arrogant, conceited or overconfident.

B. Jesus’ view on Pride – evil thoughts and actions of the mind

- “²¹ For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, ²² Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: ²³ All these evil things come from within, and defile the man” (Mark 7:21-23).

C. Quotes on Pride:

1. “At its root, pride is simply independence from God.” – David Wilkerson
2. “Pride and self-conceit are sins that beset great men. They are apt to take that glory to themselves which is due to God only.” – Matthew Henry
3. “You can always tell when a man is great way from God – He is always talking about himself, and how good he is.” – D.L. Moody

D. Need of Squeaky Shoes

Whether we want to recognize it or not, many of us are like the Christian who went to the village merchant to purchase a pair of shoes. He was outfitted with a suitable pair and went away happy. Some weeks later he brought the shoes back. “Didn’t they fit? Weren’t they good?” asked the merchant. “Yes.” “Then why are you returning them?” “Because they don’t have a squeak.” It appeared the man wanted a pair of shoes that would squeak as he walked up the aisle of the church. He wanted something that would draw attention to himself - (Bible Illustrations).

WORLD’S WAY – WISDOM’S WAY

World’s Way – wrong reaction to God, Life and others

Wisdom’s Way – Biblical (correct) response to God, Life and others.

WORLD'S WAY – PRIDE

A. A Proudful Person is Self-Sufficient (Prov 3:5-7)

1. He does not trust in God completely for wisdom with decisions. He believes that his way is right. He knows more than God. His way is the best way. He does not allow God to have complete control of his life. He relies on his own understanding.
2. He does not trust God. Partial trust is not trust at all. Either God is trustworthy or He is not. If God cannot be trusted with all, God cannot be trusted at all.

B. A Proudful Person Opposes Wisdom – He does not Fear the Lord (Prov 8:13; 15:33; 22:4) – He does not have a deep respect and awe for God's power and holiness. He does not hate evil thoughts, evil words, evil company, evil worship, and evil doctrines. His concern is pleasing himself rather than pleasing God.

C. A Proudful Person is Boastful (Prov 27:2; 20:6; 17:19)

He praises himself rather than pleasing others. He is the center of attention. He talks arrogantly, loudly proclaiming his wealth, power and position.

D. A Proudful Person is Haughty (Prov 18:12; 21:41 16:18)

He reveals the outward expression of conceit which is what is in his heart. His haughty look speaks of the way he views himself in relation to others. He exalts or elevates himself above others, even God. He looks down on others.

E. A Proudful Person is a Scornful (Prov 21:24)

He is a scorner or scoffer which means he mocks, ridicules or scorns God's Word and the Biblical beliefs of others. Scorners or Scoffers will deny and make fun of Christ's promise to return in the last days (2 Peter 3:3).

F. A Proudful Person is Sinful (Prov 21:4)

Pride is sinful in God's sight. Pride can make a person believe that he does not need God. This can cause him to ignore God's love, gifts, wisdom and blessings.

- "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction" (Prov 1:7).
- "Length of days is in her right hand; and in her left hand riches and honour" (Prov 3:16).

G. Pride Can Bring a Person Low (Prov 29:23)

Pride and self-promotion does not exalt a person. It eventually results in dishonor and humiliation – a painful and disgraceful fall.

- "For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted" (Luke 14:11).
- "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up" (James 4:10).

THE RESULTS AND CONSEQUENCES OF PRIDE

1. Pride can boomerang and hurt you (Prov 11:2; 16:18; 29:23)

This person sees no need for God. He is overconfident and believes that he is the master of his own fate which will eventually lead to his fall. He has an inflated opinion of himself. Therefore, he is reviled and despised by others. People do not honor and respect those who are prideful. They view them with reproach and scorn.

2. Pride leads to shame (Prov 11:2; 25:27)

Shame comes after the fall. The Prideful person will experience the humiliation of reality – disgrace for his ungodly actions.

3. Pride leads to strife and contention (Prov 13:10; 28:25)

Pride stirs up conflicts and divides people. Pride starts arguments and disagreements – nothing good ever comes from Pride. Be willing to listen to sound and Biblical advice, thus avoiding Pride and Conflict.

4. Pride leads to destruction (Prov 15:25; 16:8-19; 18:12)

The Lord is on the side of the helpless and humble. A Prideful person may illegally build themselves great houses from the profits of the weak, but God will destroy them.

5. God hates Pride (Prov 16:5; 6:16-19)

The Prideful person rejects God's leadership and guidance as He believes that he can live without God's help. Pride is at the top of list of sins that God hates – Prideful eyes – “a proud look” – look down on God and others.

6. God will punish sin (Prov 16:5)

The Prideful person “shall not go unpunished.” God will punish sin – including Pride. God resists the Proud (James 4:6; 1 Peter 5:5) and regards it as an abomination. The Prideful person imitates Satan in his Proud rebellion against God (Isa 14:12-15).

- **God gives Grace to the Humble (James 4:6; 1 Pet 5:5)**

7. Pride influences a person to live independently of God (Prov 29:23)

We need God! The Prideful person lives without relying on God wholeheartedly. He relies on himself – pleasing himself – which is Sin.

8. Pride refuses constructive criticism (Prov 12:1)

A Prideful person is a “Know-it-All.” He hates correction, The person who refuses constructive criticism has a problem with Pride. He is unlikely to learn much.

WISDOM'S WAY – PRIDE

The correct way (wisdom's way) to address Pride is through Humility – it is being meek and low in Spirit, obedient to God and His Word; to be respectful and selfless toward God and of humble service to God.

(Prov 3:7) - “Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil.”

- All wisdom comes from God. Therefore, a proper response to God is to fear (respect) Him to prevent the evil of pride.

(Prov 16:18) “Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.”

- Proud people take little account of their weaknesses and do not consider stumbling blocks. A person of humility knows that pride is destructive and will lead to a downfall. The humble person knows that pride will not go unpunished.

(Prov 22:4) “By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, and honour, and life.”

- A person cannot be God fearing and filled with pride at the same time. Wealth, honor, and life result from fearing God and righteous living.

(Prov 29:23) “A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.”

- A proud person seeks to elevate himself whereas a person of lowly spirit is elevated by others to a position of power.

SUMMARY OF WISDOM’S WAY: THE HUMBLE PERSON

Pride is a dangerous sin that is disliked by God. Pride leads to shame, destruction, strife and contention. When a person fears the Lord, he will have a lowly mind and be totally dependent on God. The humble person knows that pride is a sin that will lead to other vices. There are no positive benefits of pride. We must have lowliness of mind so that God can use us. Satan introduced pride into the world by thinking he was good enough to challenge God’s authority and rule (Isa 14:12-14; 1 Tim 3:6). Remember, it is God that gives us gifts, talents and abilities. Therefore, we should remain humble as pride will not go unpunished.

Practical Application (including results and consequences):

1. Humility gives strength and determination to live (Prov 18:14).
2. Always trust in God wholeheartedly (Prov 3:5-6)
3. A person should avoid pride.
4. Pride is a part of ungodliness (2 Tim 3:2).
5. Pride can disrupt the life of the church (1 Cor 4:6-7).
6. Do not think more highly of yourself than you should (Rom 12:3).
7. Pride can affect what you say about others (James 4:16).
8. Do not allow power, fame, possessions, and other details of life cause you to sin or think lowly of others.
9. Grow spiritually by having the filling of the Holy Spirit and a strong day to day relationship with the Lord.
10. “Let another man praise thee” (Prov 27:1).
11. Humility produces honor (Prov 29:23).

MEMORY VERSE:

“The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom; and before honour is humility” (Prov 15:33).

CONCLUSION:

A. “⁶ Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: ⁷ Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you” (1 Pet 5:6-7).

B. Definition of Humility

Andrew Murray gave a near-perfect definition of humility:

Humility is perfect quietness of heart. It is to expect nothing, to wonder at nothing that is done to me, to feel nothing done against me. It is to at rest when nobody praises me, and when I am blamed or despised. It is to have a blessed home in the Lord, where I can go in and shut the door, and kneel to my Father in secret, and am at peace as in a deep sea of calmness, when all around and above is trouble. The humble person is not one who thinks meanly of himself, he simply does not think of himself at all.

Test of Humility

“The true way to be humble is not to stoop until you are smaller than yourself, but to stand at your real height against some higher nature that will show you what the real smallness of your greatness is” (Phillips Brooks).

C. ABC’s of Salvation

- **A – Admit** that you’re a sinner and that you cannot save yourself (Rom 3:23, Eph 2:8-9).
- **B – Believe** that Jesus died on the Cross and rose again for your sins (Rom 5:8, 1 Cor. 15:3-4).
- **C – Confess**/Call on Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior (Rom 10:9-13)



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“... the word of our God shall stand for ever” (Isa 40:8).