

Sin 101

Lesson 3 Pride

PART I EXPLANATION

Introduction: Of all of the sins, pride appears to be a sin that is most offensive to God. He tells us that He resists the proud. Pride is to have an exalted view of self. The problem with having an exalted view of self is that it is always accompanied by a low view of God. The two have a negative correlation. The higher your views of God, the lower your views of yourself. The higher your views of self, the lower that your views of God will be.

Pride is also a very dangerous sin, because it is the sin of not seeing your sin. If we were truly able to view our sins in the light of God's countenance it would certainly serve to give us a greater measure of humility. Ironically, the world has its own way of justifying the sin of pride. The primary way in which they do so is to change its name. Instead of calling it pride they call it self esteem.

The majority of people view a high self esteem as a good thing. The reason is that they have false ideas about a low self esteem. A low self esteem is viewed as a bad thing because it has such damaging effects upon an individual. However, calling it low self esteem is just another way of excusing pride.

For example, people with a "low self esteem" are usually those who don't like the way they look, act, or especially how others view them. They will frequently make statements like "I hate the way I look, I am so ugly". What this reveals is not that they have a low self esteem, rather that they despise the fact that others don't view them as being better than they are. If they truly hated themselves, they would be glad that they were ugly. But because they love themselves and despise the fact that others look better than them, they smother themselves in self pity.

What they fail to realize is that the root of their problem is pride. It is easy to identify the one who is proud of their talents and appearance and has a haughty spirit. It is not so easy to discover self pride in a ner-do-well. For example, have you ever had the experience of trying to help someone who was in desperate need of help, but in their pride would not allow you to help them. Their desperate circumstances reveal that they have nothing to be proud of, yet their pride refuses to receive help.

A genuine low self esteem is in reality a very good thing and is something that we are expected to have and develop as Christians. Christ expected us to learn of Him to be "*meek and lowly*". He claimed that in doing so we would find rest for our souls not the bondage of self pity. True meekness is rest for our souls because we do not have to exert ourselves by attempting to hold ourselves up in the esteem of others.

What is interesting is that we view some people as having nothing to be proud of, while others as having something to be proud of. In reality, nobody has anything to be proud of. God is the giver of every good and perfect gift. *For who maketh thee to differ from another? And what hast thou that thou didst not receive? Now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not receive it?*

How indicative of the depravity of man that we would glory over things that we had no control over. No person can control what they look like, what parents they are born to, what mental capacity they are given, or what circumstances they will face in life. Nevertheless, those who are born with an attractive countenance, successful parents, and a strong mental capacity are prone to glory in something that they received.

It is because of this pride that God explains why He chooses the foolish, the poor, and the despised to salvation; that no flesh should glory in His presence. No person will be able to boast of their intellect in deciphering the gospel or their privileged position to have access to the gospel. All glory is given to Christ for our salvation because it was wholly of grace. How devastating is it to have Christians who are proud of their doctrine, or their church, or their pastor instead of glorying in their Savior and their God.

Definitions: *For English use the Webster's 1828 Dictionary and copy all appropriate definitions for each word. For the Greek and Hebrew use a Strong's Concordance and copy the definition. The Strong's number is in parenthesis.*

English: **Pride** - n.

Pride v.

Proud - a.

Greek: (212) **alazoneia** *al-ad-zon-i'-a*

(5187) **tuphoo** *toof-o'-o*

(5243) **huperephania** *hoop-er-ay-fan-ee'-ah*

Hebrew: (1347) **ga'on** *gaw-ohn'*

(1363) **gobahh** *go'-bah*

(1466) **gevah** *gay-vaw'*

(2087) **zadon** *zaw-done'*

Quotation:

“Pride loves to climb up, not as Zaccheus to see Christ, but to be seen.” William Gurnall

“This is certainly pride, for it is a lifiting up of the heart above God and against God and without God.” Thomas Manton

“A proud faith is as much a contradiction as a humble devil.” Stephen Charnock

“The more godly a man is, and the more graces and blessings of God are upon him, the more he hath need to pray, because Satan is busiest against him, and because he is readiest to be puffed up with a conceited holiness.” Richard Greenham

“I may say of pride, many sins have done wickedly, but thou surmountest them all; for the wrathful man, the prodigal man, the lascivious man, the surfeiting man, the slothful man, is rather an enemy to himself than to God; the envious man, the covetous man, the deceitful man, the ungrateful man, is rather an enemy to men than to God; but the proud man sets himself against God (because he doth against His laws), he maketh himself equal with God (because he doth all without God and craves no help of Him); he exalteth himself above God (because he will have his own will).” Henry Smith

“As death is the last enemy; so pride the last sin that shall be destroyed in us.” John Boys

“Pride is the shirt of the soul, put on first and put off last.” George Swinnock

“Humility makes men angels; pride makes angels devils” Joseph Hall

“When the devil cannot stay us from a good work, then he laboureth by all means to make us proud of it.” Henry Smith

“Only a Christian of strong grace can bear the strong wine of commendation without the spiritual intoxication.” William Jenkyn

“For the avoiding of this vice (pride), God suffereth men to fall into other vices, which men abhor and punish, as theft and fornication, and drunkenness, to make them ashamed by these vices, which were not ashamed of pride.” Henry Smith

“Knowing your strength lies wholly in God and not in yourself, remain humble – even when God is blessing and using you most. Remember, when you have your best suit on, who made it and who paid for it! God’s favor is neither the work of your own hands nor the price of your own worth. How can you boast of what you did not buy? If you embezzle God’s strength and credit it to your own account, He will soon call an audit and take back what was His all along.” William Gurnall

Confessions (Look up and read these articles)

London Baptist Confession of 1689

Chapter 6: of the Fall of Man, of Sin, and of the punishment thereof - paragraphs 1-5

PART II EXPLORATION

Key Questions (*Answer in writing*)

1. What is the correlation between our view of self and our view of God?

2. Why is pride so dangerous?
3. How does the world make the sin of pride more acceptable?
4. Explain how the common view of a “low self esteem” is really another form of pride.
5. How is the pride of those in a low estate manifest itself?
6. Explain why a genuine low self esteem is a good thing.
7. Why is it that we have nothing to be proud of even in our accomplishments?
8. Why does God tell us that He chooses the poor, weak, and foolish to salvation?
9. Why does Henry Smith see pride to be a chief sin?
10. How did Henry Smith claim the Devil works when he can't keep us from good works?

Key Scriptures:

II Chronicles 32:24-26 When God answered Hezekiah's prayer for healing he was ungrateful and his heart was _____ which brought _____ upon him and upon his nation. However, he and the people _____ themselves and the Lord withheld His wrath.

Psalm 10:2-4 Pride causes the wicked to _____ the poor. Because of his pride he will not _____ God and God is not found in any of his _____.

Psalm 138:6 Even though the Lord is exalted above all things, He still has _____ unto the _____ but the proud He knows _____.

Proverbs 6:16-18 The first in the list of things that the Lord hates and that are an abomination to Him is a _____ look.

Proverbs 8:13 Those who have a fear of the Lord will _____ pride.

Proverbs 11:2 _____ accompanies pride.

Proverbs 13:10 If it were not for pride there would be no _____.

Proverbs 16:5 The proud in heart are an _____ to the Lord and they will not go _____.

Proverbs 16:18 Pride leads to _____ and a _____.

Proverbs 29:23 Pride will bring you _____.

Jeremiah 49:16 The Edomites felt safe from attack and were proud of their fortress. However, God promised to _____ them _____.

Malachi 3:15 A sign of a wicked people is that they call the proud _____.

Romans 1:30 Depraved mankind are described as _____ and _____.

Romans 12:3 We should not think too highly of ourselves because it is God which _____ to every man the _____ of _____.

I Timothy 3:6 A qualification of a bishop is that he must not be a _____ to prevent him from being _____ with pride and falling into the same _____ as the Devil did. (See Isaiah 14:12-15)

I Peter 5:5 Peter charges elders to be humble toward each other because God _____ the proud but gives _____ to the humble.

Key Chapter(s) (*Read daily and summarize in your own words the meaning of the chapter*):
Daniel 4

PART III EXPECTATION

Memory verse: James 4:6

Personal Definition: (*Write a definition in your own words*)

pride -

Personal Application: What is the greatest area of pride in your life?

Meditation question: (*be prepared for discussion*) What do you have to be proud of?

Extra Credit: Identify and list ten areas of pride in your life this week.