

Understanding Pride

Key Point: Pride is at the root of every sin you commit and is at the core of the problems we have with people and circumstances. Therefore, we need to understand the nature of pride if we are going to deal properly with the problems we face with people and circumstances.

I. The Principle of Pride: Pride is mind set on self with resistance and or a lack of submission to the will of God. (Romans 8:5-7)

- A. A mind governed by one's own assessment of self with resistance and or a lack of submission to the will of God. (Luke 18:9-14)
- B. A mind governed by one's own belief system about God, life, and people with resistance and or lack of submission to the will of God. (Proverbs 28:26)
- C. A mind governed by trust, confidence, or dependence in one's own abilities, accomplishments, academics, affluence, associations, or position in life, with resistance and or lack of submission to the will of God. (Daniel 4: 30-37)
- D. A mind governed by service of self, sustaining of self, satisfaction of self, or exalting one's self with resistance and or lack of submission to the will of God. (Genesis 11:1-9)

II. The Problem of Pride: Pride is detestable to God and brings detriment to you from God when you walk in it. (Proverbs 6:16-17, Psalm 119:21)

- A. Pride is hated by God. (Proverbs 6:16-17)
- B. Pride puts you in opposition to God. (James 4:6)
- C. Pride leads God to bring destruction to your home. (Proverbs 15:25a)
- D. Pride leads to God's judgment of you. (Proverbs 16:5)

III. The Practice of Pride: Life is lived being consumed with pleasing, providing, or promoting, or one's self with a lack of love for God and others. (2 Timothy 3:1-4)

- A. Pride is revealed in one being preoccupied with having their way and using people to get it resulting in confusion disorder and every evil thing in their lives. (James 3:13-16)
- B. Pride is revealed in one having a sense of entitlement to God's comfort while getting anger when God allows discomfort in one's life. (Jonah 4: 5-9)

- C. Pride is revealed in one talking in a manner which reveals that they think too highly of themselves. (Psalm 94:4)
- D. Pride is revealed in rebellion and or disrespect of God and God-given authority in one's life. (Nehemiah 9:1-26)

IV. The Product of Pride: Pride leads to a disconnect from God, a downfall in your life, and to division with others. (Hosea 7:10, Proverbs 18:12, 29:23, 13:10)

- A. Pride hinders you from seeking the Lord. (Hosea 7:10)
- B. Pride leads you to be deceived about who you really are. (Jeremiah 49:16)
- C. Pride hinders you from genuine improvement. (Proverbs 26:12)
- D. Pride brings shame to your life. (Proverbs 11:2)
- E. Pride leads you to self-destruction. (Proverbs 16:18)
- F. Pride leads you to stir up strife with others. (Proverbs 28:25)

V. The Picture of Pride: Pride will manifest itself in many ways and in various forms:

- A. Arrogance – to exaggerate one's own worth/importance.
- B. Presumption- to suppose that something is true without checking because you think you know.
- C. Unbelief – skepticism of truth presented by God.
- D. Self -Protection – keeping yourself from people, places, and things that may hurt you or disappoint you and using that as an excuse not to love.
- E. Un-forgiveness – holding a grudge against someone, not setting them free from the wrong they have committed against you even though they have sought your forgiveness.
- F. Unbiblical Control – seeking to regulate what people think, say and do according to your personal standards and agenda and not God's Will.
- G. Self-preoccupation – preoccupation with what happens to you, through you and for you.
- H. Blame Shifting – blaming your sin on the negligence of someone else or circumstances perceived as beyond your control.

- I. Grumbling- unthankful in your situation or with people, believing you deserve better or more.
- J. Lazy- doing things when you get ready or when you feel like it not when God has commanded.
- K. Self-Sufficient- living and believing the lie that you do not need anyone and that you can handle life by yourself.
- L. Un-Teachable- unwilling to listen to instruction.
- M. Lack of submission- unwilling to follow the instruction.
- N. Perfectionism- setting standards that God did not set and seeking to live by them without any failure in them.
- O. Pity Party- always focusing on how bad you are and how bad you fail and feeling sorrow for yourself as a result.
- P. Resisting Accountability- unwilling to answer to people and to be open to people who can help keep you from the people, places, products, or perspectives that lead you into sin or help you to confess, repent and replace sin with right living.
- Q. Defensive attitude- seeking to escape or avoid criticism through some rationalization, justification or denial.

(Portions of insight in this list came from the booklet From Pride To Humility by Stuart Scott pp. 6-10)

VI. The Process to Put Away Pride (Proverbs 28:13-14)

- A. Examine Yourself (Proverbs 14:8).
 - 1. What has God said to me that I cannot accept?
 - 2. Who do I compare myself with?
 - 3. What standards of thinking, behaving and living govern my life?
 - 4. Do I live by what I feel or what God says?
 - 5. What areas of my life have I chosen not to submit to God?
- B. Examine Your Relationships (Romans 12:9-21).
 - 1. How often do I confess my faults to a person I have offended?
 - 2. How often do I confess my hurts to a person I have offended?
 - 3. Is my anger toward my family, friends, co-workers and church members pleasing to God or displeasing to God?
 - 4. Am I critical of family, friends, co-workers, and church leaders who do not do things according to my standards?

5. Do I give according to my feelings or God's standards?
 6. Do I love according to my standards or God's standards?
- C. Examining your response to God given authority (1 Peter 2:13-17).
1. Am I submitting to my husband according to my standards or God's standards?
 2. Am I submitting to leaders on the job, at church according to my standards or God's standards?
 3. Do I have a Biblical reason not to submit?
- D. How Do We Deal With It? (Proverbs 28:13-14)
1. Identify key areas where you have pride:
 - a. Family
 - b. Friends
 - c. Work
 - d. Finances
 - e. Reputation
 - f. Entertainment
 2. Ask yourself, "Am I willing to live up under God's authority in this area of my life?"
 3. Confess to God your sin of pride in this area.
 4. Ask God to give you a desire and will to repent in this area.
 5. Learn God's truth in the area and meditate on it consistently.
 6. Do the hard work of training in God's truth through the help of the Holy Spirit and other believers.
 7. Expect difficulty, hardships, and resistance from all angles.
 8. Allow God's grace, time, and truth to strengthen you as you train through the difficulty, hardship, and resistance.
 9. Find a set of people that will encourage you, keep you accountable and work with you.

(For more insight on this read the booklet From Pride to Humility by Stuart Scott)