

PRIDE

Pride goes before destruction,
And a haughty spirit before stumbling.

(Proverbs 16:18)

Pride—so often applauded by the world and so despised by God. We read in the Scriptures that everyone who is proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord (Proverbs 16:5). Why does God hate pride?

Pride was first found in Lucifer, the highest angelic being. Even such a high position was not enough for Lucifer. He wanted to be like God. Lucifer's sin was pride. As a result of his pride, God cast him to the ground, and his ultimate end will be in the lake of fire and brimstone (Revelation 20:10). Lucifer is now called Satan.

Pride has many faces and is a great stumbling block in one's life. Of course, we can be so deceived that we never see the pride in ourselves, only in others. Some flaunt their pride and consider it a virtue. Only a born again person can have a proper attitude about pride. Pride is not good. Pride is not from God. All through the Scriptures we see that pride is something to be put away. Pride is listed among deeds that proceed out of our heart and defile us.

And [Jesus] was saying,
“That which proceeds out of the man, that is what defiles
the man.

“For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the
evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries,
deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit,
sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness.

“All these evil things proceed from within and defile the
man.”

(Mark 7:20–23)

Humility—the state of being humble—is what God desires. Pride is not from God, but from the world (1 John 2:16), and Satan is the god of this world (2 Corinthians 4:4). Read again the above verses, Mark 7:20–23, to cement in your mind and heart what company pride keeps.

Pride Is in Enmity with Humility

Pride detests humility; it sees it as a weakness. Pride is enraged by humility. Pride will staunch our faith, even if we are believers; it will cause us to stumble. Pride may shut the door of one's heart to the humble Christ—it may keep one from receiving Jesus Christ as his or her Lord and Savior. Jesus is gentle and humble in heart (Matthew 11:29). God's grace is an affront to pride, and an insult. Pride does not want to accept that Jesus and His accomplished work on the cross and His resurrection is sufficient for our salvation. Pride doesn't want to accept that Jesus has done it all. Pride doesn't want to accept that God's

forgiveness is complete, that all that is required of us is to believe and put faith in what was done on our behalf, and by faith receive the life of Christ, which He offers to all as a gift (Romans 6:23).

Pride Is a Stumbling Block in the Relationships Between People

“How can you say this to *me*?” “How can you do this to *me*?” “Do you know who *I* am?” We get all huffy and puffy, we get angry, we scream and fight, and we even kill when our pride is injured. How pathetic! I think we take things too personally; we take ourselves too seriously. We think too much of ourselves. On the other hand, what do the Scriptures say?

Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself;
do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

(Philippians 2:3, 4)

Beloved, we have to develop a proper attitude. We should not compare ourselves with each other. There is always someone who is better or worse than we. Even our opinions of others may be distorted, since we don't know the hearts of people. We are capable of doing great things with totally wrong motives. Only God knows our mind and heart. Nobody can fool Him. When we look at God and see His glory, how can our pride survive in the light of His majesty?

Pride Is the Opposite of Love

The love I am writing about is the unconditional love of God, which every Christian received in Jesus Christ. We are God's children, and our Father wants us to pass the same kind of love—unconditional love to each other. Only His love is capable of loving our enemies and forgiving everyone from the heart. It is love that says, “I love you.” Period. No strings attached, and no conditions. This kind of love is an act of will. It is God's love. (Read chapter “Love.”) God's love is described in 1 Corinthians 13:4–8.

New American Standard Translation:

Love is patient,
love is kind,
and is not jealous;
love does not brag
and is not arrogant,
does not act unbecomingly;
it does not seek its own,
is not provoked,
does not take into account a wrong suffered,

New International Version:

Love is patient,
love is kind.
It does not envy,
it does not boast,
it is not proud.
It is not rude,
it is not self-seeking,
it is not easily angered,
it keeps no record of wrongs.

does not rejoice in unrighteousness,
but rejoices with the truth;
bears all things,
believes all things,
hopes all things,
endures all things.
Love never fails.

Love does not delight in evil
but rejoices with the truth.
It always protects,
always trusts,
always hopes,
always perseveres.
Love never fails.

Read the above verses one more time, and replace the word “love” (charity in some translations) with the word “pride.” It just doesn’t fit, does it? Pride is none of these virtues listed above. Can you imagine pride being patient or kind? Can you say pride is never boastful and arrogant? On the contrary, isn’t that what pride is—arrogance, boastfulness, haughtiness, selfishness, and rudeness? Can you picture pride not being provoked? Pride is provoked very easily; pride is quick-tempered and angry.

God’s love never fails. Pride fails every time.

Every time we are not patient and kind, but are puffed up, provoked, or holding grudges, we are not walking in the Spirit, but in the flesh. We are not walking in God’s love, but in pride. Brothers and sisters, think it all through and start walking in God’s love. It will change your life. All those virtues listed in the above verses from 1 Corinthians are by-products of loving as God loves—unconditionally. *Only Jesus can produce that kind of love. It is love that comes from God.*

Pride is of this world; it is natural, fleshly, earthly, and thus demonic. Beloved, we must let God’s love replace our pride. The results will be amazing!

I praise God for His great love that He so lavished upon us in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

The fear of the Lord is to hate evil;
Pride and arrogance and the evil way,
And the perverted mouth, I hate.

(Proverbs 8:13)

When pride comes, then comes dishonor,
But with the humble is wisdom.

(Proverbs 11:2)

Behold, as for the proud one,
His soul is not right within him;
But the righteous will live by his faith.

(Habakkuk 2:4)

He has done mighty deeds with His arm;
He has scattered those who were proud in the thoughts of
their heart.

(Luke 1:51)

For through the grace given to me I say to every man
among you not to think more highly of himself than he
ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment,
as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.

(Romans 12:3)

Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be
haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be
wise in your own estimation.

(Romans 12:16)

God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the
humble.

(James 4:6)

All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one
another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to
the humble.

(1 Peter 5:5)