

GRAB A BIBLE
Topic: "PRIDE"
August 7th, 2007 - 10am and 7pm

Characterization of Pride:

1. Find a definition for pride or write your own definition: _____

2. Isaiah 53:6 says: *All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his _____*. Wanting our own way is a simple definition of pride. We all share one thing in common and that is the sin of pride.

3. What are some of the things that you, or other believers, can get filled with pride about? _____

4. We find pride mentioned 46 times in the King James Bible and never in a positive way. The reason is simple – God doesn't see pride as a virtue. Pride is the sin God hates most and wants us to likewise hate. Read Proverbs 6:16-19 and notice the list of things God hates. What is the first thing listed? _____

5. Why do you think it is that God hates pride (a proud look) more than any other sin? _____

Cause of Pride:

Why is God so opposed to Pride? The answer is because Satan is the father of pride. The original sin was pride; and it was the first sin of Lucifer as he challenged God.

Read Isaiah 14:12-15 and notice how many times the word "I" is used. That's the interesting thing about pride and sin, they both have "I" in the middle.

6. Lucifer said "*I will be like the _____*", but the reality is that he "*shalt be brought down _____, to the sides of _____.*"
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7. Likewise, the original sin of Adam and Eve was pride, trusting in their own understanding above God's. Read Genesis 3:1-7. Do you see the example of Pride in verse 6? Why did Eve do something she knew was in direct disobedience to God? _____

Consequences of Pride:

8. What does the Bible say God will do to those who don't humble themselves in Leviticus 26:18-21? _____

9. Match up the following verses from Proverbs regarding pride:

Proverbs 8:13 *An high look, and a proud heart, and the plowing of the wicked, is sin*

Proverbs 11:2 *Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD:*

Proverbs 16:5 *The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.*

Proverbs 16:18 *When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom.*

Proverbs 21:4 *Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth; a stranger, and not thine own lips.*

Proverbs 27:2 *Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.*

10. Read I Peter 5:5. How does God respond to the proud and the humble?

Also, James 4:6 says *"God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble."* Please notice that these verses are both a warning to the proud and a promise to the humble. Pride is an attitude of self-sufficiency toward God. Humility is an acknowledgment that we are weak, unworthy, and inadequate. To the humble, God promises grace.

Prayer and Pride:

11. 2 Chronicles 7:14 *"If my people, which are called by my name, shall _____ themselves, and _____, and _____ my _____, and _____ from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."*

Prayer is an act of humility, it is saying, "God, I need You, I need your help." And on the other hand, prayerlessness is pride. It is saying, "God, I'm not praying because I don't need you or any help from you." You can judge the extent of your pride by the amount of time you spend in prayer. Think about that!

Is your pride keeping you from praying about something? Surrender that to God now!

Cultivating Humility:

Maybe we need to be reminded what humility really is. Humility, if properly understood, is to get to the point of seeing yourself as you truly are. Humility is derived from the Latin word hummus, which means "of the earth". So the humble person is literally down-to-earth and well-grounded. Humility is being honest about your authentic personhood, with all its strengths and weaknesses, so that you can feel realistically good about yourself. Humility just may be accepting both the fact that you are a beloved and blessed child of God and accepting the fact that you still are not God. The foundation of humility, then, is truth. So humility may be taking Ann Landers' advice and not accepting "your dog's admiration as conclusive evidence that you are wonderful." But humility also may be a little akin to what Winston Churchill once said of himself, "We are all worms, but I do believe that I am a glow-worm"

In Matthew 11:11 Jesus said this about John – *“Verily I say unto you, among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”*

12. What was John’s secret? Read John 3:22-30. In verse 30 John says:
“_____ must _____, but _____ must _____.”

13. John seems to have figured out the key to this life - Humility! What practical things can we do to live out verse 30? _____

14. Below are just three of the immediate results of a humbled life. Check off the ones that speak to you personally.

- Humbled believers spend far less money (because spending so much is prompted by pride) then we are able to fund greater and greater kingdom work.
- Humbled believers trim their schedules of what doesn’t please God but is just selfish activity (prompted by our pride to keep up with everyone else) then we have more time for ministry because we’d do God’s work first and our pleasures second.
- Humbled believers find God’s Word attracts them more than their hobbies and pursuits because they’ve stopped living for themselves.

Just as pride is behind every conflict we have with other people and every problem of fellowship we have with the Lord, so humility is behind every harmonious relationship, every spiritual success, and every moment of joyous fellowship with the Lord.

Isaac Watts, hymnwriter extraordinaire, tells us that when he beheld the humiliation in which the Son of glory died he was able to pour contempt on all his pride. What does this mean to you? _____

15. In Mark 9:35, Jesus instructs the disciples in humility – “*And he sat down, and called the twelve, and saith unto them, If any man desire to be first, the same shall be _____ of all, and _____ of all.*” Is the Lord speaking to you about some area in your life where you need to move yourself to the “back of the line”?

How can you be more of a servant this week? _____

Lastly, and on a lighter note, exhibiting the sin of pride is also to think that you are the center of the universe around which everything is to revolve. And so the English novelist George Eliot wrote describing someone particularly prideful: "He was like a rooster who thought the sun had risen just to hear him crow". One American writer has said of a prideful woman: "She invents dramas in which she always stars." As John Barrymore, the American actor of nearly a century ago, spoke concerning himself, "One of my chief regrets during my years in the theater is that I couldn't sit in the audience and watch me". And it was editor H.L. Mencken who admitted, "My vanity is excessive: wherever I sit is the head of the table".

As Bette Midler is quoted as saying once about an acting role, "There were some initial difficulties when the Director first told me the disappointing news that if the film were to have semblance of reality at all there would have to be moments when other people were on screen at the same time I was." Such is the sin of pride.
