

“Pride vs. Humility”

1. Introduction
 - a. Series: “On to Maturity”
 - b. This morning: “Pride vs. Humility”
2. Recap “Wisdom vs. Folly” lesson:
 - a. Just as there are natural laws that govern our world (like gravity), there are also spiritual laws as well (like “you reap what you sow”).
 - b. Whether we believe in these laws or not, we are all governed by them.
 - c. Wisdom is living in harmony with these laws (both natural and spiritual).
 - d. Foolishness is living in ignorance or opposition to them.
 - e. Last week, Gregg identified some spiritual laws regarding discipline.
 - i. If we hate discipline, we will suffer.
 - ii. If we love discipline, we will prosper.
 - f. Today, we’re going to identify some more spiritual laws regarding pride and humility.
3. Transition (=) First a definition of pride, and then “a picture of pride” (Q: What does pride look like?)
 - a. Romans 12:3 = “For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.”
 - i. Pride is a way of thinking about ourselves, especially in relation to others.
 1. In relation to God:
 - a. Abraham in Genesis 18:27 = “...I am nothing but dust and ashes.”
 - i. My meditation to prepare me for prayer: “God, you’re everything and I’m nothing.”
 - b. There is a great correlation between faith and humility.
 - i. The bigger God is in our eyes (faith), the smaller we become (humility).
 - ii. And the smaller we are in our eyes (humility), the bigger God becomes (faith).
 1. Point = Faith & humility feed each other!

- c. Conversely there is a great correlation between pride and unbelief:
 - i. The bigger we are in our eyes (pride), the smaller God becomes (unbelief).
 - ii. And the smaller God is in our eyes (unbelief), the bigger we become (pride).
 - 1. Point = Pride & unbelief feed each other!
 - 2. Psalm 10:4 = "In his pride the wicked does not seek him; in all his thoughts there is no room for God."
- 2. Pride is also a way of thinking about ourselves in relation to others:
 - a. One problem with overcoming pride = no one thinks they're prideful. (Or they'd be humble ☺)
- 3. So, here's a pride self-test:
 - a. Q: Do you look down on anybody else for any reason?
 - b. Q: Do you think you're better than anybody else for any reason?
 - c. Q: Are you prejudiced against anybody or any group of people for any reason at all?
 - d. Q: Are you self-righteous in any area of your life?
 - e. Q: Do you think you're a good person?
 - f. Q: Do you get offended easily because you think you deserve better?
 - g. Q: Are you a servant?
 - h. Q: Does it bother you to not be acknowledged for your service?
 - i. Q: Do you serve in secret?
 - j. Q: Are you boastful?
 - k. Q: Who do you lift up more in conversation: yourself or others?
 - l. Q: Do you lie or exaggerate to make yourself look better than you are?
 - m. Q: Is it hard for you to repent, apologize and forgive others?
 - n. Q: Are you vain and conceited?
 - o. Q: Are you jealous of others?

- p. Q: Does it bother you when others are lifted up and praised in public?
- q. Q: Do you spread gossip and make others look bad?
- r. Q: How well do you take correction?
- s. Q: How often do you seek advice?
- t. Q: Are you teachable?
- u. Q: Are you discipleable?
- v. Q: How often do you confess your sins?
- w. Q: Are you a "God-pleaser" or a "people-pleaser"?
- x. Q: When was the last time you took a public stand for God?
- y. Q: When was the last time you shared your faith with a stranger?
- z. Q: Are you a public or a closet Christian?

b. The picture of pride:

- i. Proverbs 21:24 = "The proud and arrogant man-"Mocker" is his name; he behaves with overweening pride."
 - 1. The proud person stands above others; looks down on them and mocks.
 - a. Critical
 - b. Judgmental
 - c. Unforgiving
 - d. Uncompassionate
 - e. Usually dissentious (quarrelsome, argumentative)
 - i. Proverbs 22:10 = "Drive out the mocker, and out goes strife; quarrels and insults are ended."
 - 2. Notice the connection between pride and treating people poorly.
- ii. Proverbs 30:11-14 = "There are those who curse their fathers and do not bless their mothers;
 - 12 those who are pure in their own eyes and yet are not cleansed of their filth;
 - 13 those whose eyes are ever so haughty, whose glances are so disdainful;
 - 14 those whose teeth are swords and whose jaws are set with knives to devour the poor from the earth, the needy from among mankind."
 - 1. Proudful people can be downright mean!

- a. (T.V. show: "House" ...)
- 2. Vs. 13 = If I'm thinking too highly of myself, then I'm looking down on everybody else!
 - a. There are two ways to elevate myself:
 - i. Boast about myself
 - ii. Or tear you down
 - 1. The prideful person usually does both!
- 3. Conversely, humility and gentleness go together:
 - a. Matthew 11:28-29 = "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."
- 4. Point = So, the humble are generally gentle and helpful, but the proud are generally mean and hurtful (sometimes very subtly).
 - iii. Proverbs 21:4 = "Haughty eyes and a proud heart, the lamp of the wicked, are sin."
 - 1. Nobody likes a haughty and proud person...
 - a. (That's why they don't have many true friends, or close relationships.)
 - 2. Q: And how does God feel about pride?
 - 3. A: Proverbs 8:13 = "To fear the Lord is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech."
 - a. Pride leads to distance & separation from God.
- 4. The product of pride
 - a. Proverbs 3:33-35 = "The LORD's curse is on the house of the wicked, but he blesses the home of the righteous.
 - 34 He mocks proud mockers
but gives grace to the humble.
 - 35 The wise inherit honor,
but fools he holds up to shame."
 - b. Proverbs 16:5 = "The LORD detests all the proud of heart.
Be sure of this: They will not go unpunished."
 - c. Proverbs 15:25 = "The LORD tears down the proud man's house
but he keeps the widow's boundaries intact."
 - i. Spiritual Law: "If you are prideful, God is against you."

1. 1 Peter 5:5 = "All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."
- d. Proverbs 11:2 = "When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom."
 - i. Spiritual Law: "If you are prideful, you will be disgraced." (Short time or long...)
 1. Psalm 73 (all)
5. The panacea (solution) for pride
 - a. Proverbs 16:18-20 = "Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.

19 Better to be lowly in spirit and among the oppressed than to share plunder with the proud.

20 Whoever gives heed to instruction prospers, and blessed is he who trusts in the LORD."
 - i. Some solutions to pride:
 1. Be lowly in spirit
 - a. Beatitudes (Matthew 5)
 - b. Humble yourself (James 4:10)
 2. Give heed to instruction (Gregg's lesson last week)
 3. Trust in God
 - a. Proverbs 3:5-10 =
 - i. "Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; 6 in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.
 - 7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil.
 - 8 This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones.
 - 9 Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops;
 - 10 then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine."
- b. Close

- i. Proverbs 29:23 = "A man's pride brings him low,
but a man of lowly spirit gains honor."
- ii. Q: Will you be brought low or honored?
 1. The choice is yours.
- iii. Q: Are you personally "moving on to maturity?"
 1. Q: Are you learning from your mistakes?
 2. Q: Is the fear of the Lord factoring more heavily into your decision-making?
 3. Q: Are you still growing spiritually?
 4. Q: Are you appreciating God's discipline?
 5. Q: Will you trust in God and humble yourself so that God can bless you?
 - a. Point =
 - i. Wisdom or folly?
 - ii. Love or hate discipline?
 - iii. Pride or Humility?
 1. The choice is yours.
 - a. Let's go on to maturity!