

Will Costello: Pride's Origin and Deceitfulness

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Isaiah 14: 12-14, Various

Pride is easy to see in others and hard to see in ourselves. Jesus is our example of a man without any pride, only seeking to do the will of the Father.

What is God's response to pride? Pro. 6:16-17

A believer has denied and humbled themselves in submission to God, Luke 9:23-24.

- 1) **Where does pride come from?** >>Pride is demonic in origin. Is. 14: 12-14. The originator is Satan, the "accuser," Lucifer. It is what happens when someone tries to be God. Ex. When Eve was deceived in Gen. 3:5. Everything I do will be the "I wills" of Satan or the "Thy wills" of Christ.
- 2) **How is it defined?** >>By self-will. "I will" occurs 5 times in v13-14. Man is lost, Rom. 5:12, Is. 53:6, Phil. 2:21, Rom. 3:10-11. What did Jesus say? His food was to do the will of His Father, Jn. 4:34. Jesus always pleased the Father, Jn. 8:29.
- 3) **What drives how it operates?** >>Pride is driven by self-love and wanting self-glory. Satan, Cain, Joseph's brothers, and Herod the Great are examples of those who attempted self-glorification. The effects are disastrous. Jesus is the perfect example of seeking the Father's glory, Jn. 7:18.
- 4) **How serious is it?** >>It is dangerous in its influence. It is opposite of the love God calls us to have. We love God properly and then we can love others. Pride is the sin that is the gateway to other sins. Mark 7:20-23 is a list of the sins that come from within. V21, begins with evil thoughts, which is me talking to myself and ends with pride and foolishness (senseless and reckless). Envy (V22) is believing that no one can have something I can't have.
- 5) **How does God feel about it?** >>It is detestable to God. Is. 2:17, only the Lord will be exalted, man will be abased and brought low. The Day of the Lord is coming when God will judge the wicked and discipline His church.
- 6) **Why is it so hard to see in my life?** >>Pride is deceitful in nature. Our hearts deceive us, Obadiah 1:3, we think we are impregnable. Jesus commands us to remove the log from our own eye and then we will be able to see the spec in another's, Matt. 7:5. Pride blinds and hides.

8 Things that I can do as a believer to combat pride in my life:

- 1) **Remember Jesus our humble Savior:** Our good is God's work and goodness in us. Be a servant to all as Christ is our example.
- 2) **Redirect your boasting:** boast in the Lord's work in our lives and in Christ, Rom. 15:15-17.
- 3) **Repent of all known sin:** James 4:1-3, we seek pleasure contrary to God's Word.
- 4) **Submit to all authority:** both spiritual leaders and government, 1 Pet. 5:5-7, Rom. 13:1-2.
- 5) **Serve anyone willingly:** 1 Pet. 5:6, "to clothe with humility," is to tie a knot, wear humility.
- 6) **Pray about everything:** I am not God and desperately need Him, 1 Pet. 5:5, God resists the proud.
- 7) **Give thanks:** everything comes from God, all good is received from God.
- 8) **Humble your soul with fasting:** Is. 58:3, 5 it is an act of humility.

A prayer for us to make every day: Reveal my pride to me in every form, kind, and degree.

Further Discussion and Application

Everyone wants even just a little recognition for things that they do. How does pride effect the reasons that I do what I do? If no one ever recognized what I do would I still do it?

Am I able to handle others telling me about my blind spots? Will I allow others to speak into my life and describe the sins that they see in my life? Speak to others who serve with you in ministry or a spouse or family member who would be able to speak to us plainly. If that isn't practical, read Gal. 5:22-23, what fruits of the Spirit can be better demonstrated to those in your family, your unsaved loved ones, brothers and sisters in Christ, and in your workplace or around your home?

Ask yourself and a brother or sister in Christ, "Does our relationship suffer because of how I treat you or act in a prideful way?" What can I change to strengthen our relationship?

Fighting against the sin of pride is a fight worth having in our lives. How do we see our outbursts of anger or frustration, our thoughts about others, how kind we are to others? Do we justify our actions? What can we do after we repent to begin anew and love others the way God is Christ does? See Eph. 4:32, Rom. 12:10.

What are the joys of dealing with pride in our lives? How will the Lord be glorified by our changed hearts? How much more effective will we be in our ministry and service to others if those we interact with know and see that our heart is humble and Christ-like?

What is your next step in this war against pride?