

## PRIDE THE GREATEST SIN

### TEXT:

**Mark 7:21-22:**

**21 For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders,**

**22 Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, *pride*, foolishness:**

Pride is the one FATAL DISEASE of the soul with which we all are affected, some to a greater degree than others. All have it until God has delivered us from it. One thing is for sure: we can't and won't deliver ourselves. It is the one sin we despise in others, but hardly believe that it exists in ourselves. It is worse than hate, murder, theft, adultery, and anger. Even covetousness and drunkenness are like mosquito bites in comparison. It caused Lucifer to become the devil he is, and it will have no less effect upon us.

What is so terrible about pride is that our pride is in competition with everyone else's pride. Therefore, we want to look down upon others because we feel so much more superior to them. **PRIDE** causes **strife, contention,** and **division** — even in the church — as declared in Proverbs 13 by Solomon, one of the wisest men that ever lived. These sins are attempts to put the other person down and to exalt ourselves.

**Pride causes  
strife, contention,  
and division.**

- 1. Proverbs 13:10: Only *by pride cometh contention*: but with the well advised is wisdom.**
- 2. Luke 22:24: And there was also a *strife* among them, which of them should be accounted the greatest.**
- 3. Proverbs 28:25: He that is of a *proud heart stirreth up strife*: but he that putteth his trust in the LORD shall be made fat.**

The PROUD want to be RICHER, WISER, MORE CLEVER, MORE HANDSOME or BEAUTIFUL than others. It's the comparison that makes people proud — when we

convince ourselves that we have more than the rest. It leads to GREEDINESS and SELFISHNESS in us so we can excel and feel we are more superior.



When a pretty woman is gaining admirers, her nose rises more and more until it is sky high. She becomes more haughty and domineering, demanding that others dance to her music. It is nearly impossible to dance to such a person's music when the person is so out-of-tune and doesn't know it.



**Isaiah 3:16-26:**

***16 Moreover the LORD saith, Because the daughters of Zion are haughty, and walk with stretched forth necks and wanton eyes, walking and mincing as they go, and making a tinkling with their feet:***

***17 Therefore the Lord will smite with a scab the crown of the head of the daughters of Zion, and the LORD will discover their secret parts.***

***18 In that day the Lord will take away the bravery of their tinkling ornaments about their feet, and their cauls, and their round tires like the moon,***

***19 The chains, and the bracelets, and the mufflers,***

***20 The bonnets, and the ornaments of the legs, and the headbands, and the tablets, and the earrings,***

***21 The rings, and nose jewels,***

***22 The changeable suits of apparel, and the mantles, and the wimples, and the crisping pins,***

***23 The glasses, and the fine linen, and the hoods, and the veils.***

***24 And it shall come to pass, that instead of sweet smell there shall be stink; and instead of a girdle a rent; and instead of well set hair baldness, and instead of a stomacher a girding of sackcloth; and burning instead of beauty.***

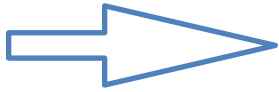
***25 Thy men shall fall by the sword, and thy mighty in the war.***

***26 And her gates shall lament and mourn; and she being desolate shall sit upon the ground.***

**The worst place to find PRIDE is in a Christian's life**

The worst place to find PRIDE is in a Christian's life when such a person feels so superior to others because he is saved, sanctified, and filled with the Holy Spirit and

and has 'got it all'.

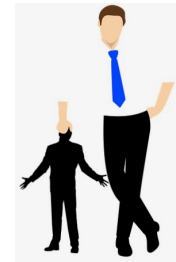


**Whenever we feel we are better than someone else, we are playing into the hands of the devil without knowing it.**

He will even whisper sweet talk to your mind that you are the greatest. Preachers, teachers, and evangelist especially have trouble in this area. Sometimes they enjoy the praise of men more than the praise of God. Sometimes they are offended inside when others praise God for giving them the talent they possess.

PRIDE IS SO VAIN that parents and teachers have found it profitable to appeal to a child's pride (so called self-esteem) to get them to behave decently and properly. It doesn't stop with children. Even young people and adults refrain from committing some of the baser sins because they like to glory in their righteousness or so-called holiness, and they want others to admire them for their sanctity and purity.

When we are craving other people's approval or praise, it shows that we are not entirely contented with our own self-admiration. It does not quite build up our ego sufficiently. This PRIDE DISEASE is really DEVILISH because it causes us to look down on others, and to be filled with disdain when others commend and admire them.



One of the most subtle forms of HUMAN PRIDE is when a person tells you that they are a NOBODY when they are really trying to get you to brag about them. True humility is in the heart when we are not thinking about ourselves at all, but enjoy giving our attention to others. That is the first step towards humility. The only One Who can give this kind of spirit to us is the LORD JESUS.

***James 4:6: But He giveth more grace. Wherefore He saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.***

***1 Peter 5:5: Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed in humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.***

**GOD BY-PASSES THE PROUD** – as Jesus stated in **Matthew 11:25-26**

***Matthew 11:25-26:***

***<sup>25</sup> At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank Thee, O Father, Lord***

*of Heaven and earth, because Thou hast hid these things from the WISE and PRUDENT, AND HAST REVEALED THEM UNTO BABES.  
26 Even so, Father: for it seemed good in Thy sight.*

This is why God has chosen the FOOLISH THINGS, THE WEAK THINGS, THE BASE THINGS, and even the DESPISED things in order that NO FLESH SHOULD GLORY IN HIS PRESENCE.

**1 Corinthians 1:27-29:**

**27 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;**

**28 And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:**

**29 That no flesh should glory in His Presence.**

In whom are *you* glorying?

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