

Sermon Title: The Battle of Pride

Sermon Text: Proverbs 6:16-17

Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to an understanding of the necessity of battling against pride.

Sermon Proposition: There are 3 facts about pride the believer must comprehend.

- I. The **definition** of pride. **Vv.16-17**
- II. The **danger** of pride. **Proverbs 8:12-13**
- III. The **destructive** nature of pride. **Various Scriptures**

I. The **definition** of pride. **Vv.16-17**

- A. Pride: inordinate self-esteem; conceit. (b) lofty self-respect, an unreasonable delight in one's position, achievements, possessions etc. insolence, arrogance, disdain.
[[Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary, p.669](#)]

“inordinate and unreasonable self-esteem, attended with insolence, stubbornness and rude treatment of others. ‘It is an attempt to appear in a superior light to what we are,’ with anxiety to gain applause, and distress and rage when slighted.” “Pride is the high opinion that a poor, little, contracted soul entertains of itself.”

[[Elevell A. Walter: Evangelical Dictionary of Theology, p.874](#)]

“Pride is the parent of discontent, ingratitude, presumption, passion, extravagance, and bigotry.”
[[ibid. p.874](#)]

“Pride is that attitude, that leads to action and activities that respond independently of God, because of one's high view of themselves.”

[[Adrian Rogers Sermon “The Perils of Pride”, www.oneplace.com](#)]

B. The Signs of Pride

1. Self-Righteousness

Luke 18:11-12 "The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men-- extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. **12** 'I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.'

2. Religious Privileges

Zephaniah 3:11 In that day you shall not be shamed for any of your deeds In which you transgress against Me; For then I will take away from your midst Those who rejoice in your pride, And you shall no longer be haughty In My holy mountain.

3. Unsanctified Knowledge

1 Corinthians 8:1 Now concerning things offered to idols: We know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies.

4. Immaturity/Inexperience

1 Timothy 3:6 not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the *same* condemnation as the devil.

5. Desire for Power

Leviticus 26:19 I will break the pride of your power; I will make your heavens like iron and your earth like bronze.

Ezekiel 30:6 'Thus says the LORD: "Those who uphold Egypt shall fall, And the pride of her power shall come down. From Migdol to Syene Those within her shall fall by the sword," Says the Lord GOD.

6. Possession of Wealth
2 Kings 20:13 And Hezekiah was attentive to them, and showed them all the house of his treasures-- the silver and gold, the spices and precious ointment, and all his armory-- all that was found among his treasures. There was nothing in his house or in all his dominion that Hezekiah did not show them.

C. The Symptoms of Pride

1. Shame
Proverbs 11:2 When pride comes, then comes shame; But with the humble *is* wisdom.
2. Debasement
Proverbs 29:23 A man's pride will bring him low, But the humble in spirit will retain honor.
Isaiah 28:3 The crown of pride, the drunkards of Ephraim, Will be trampled underfoot;
3. Destruction
Proverbs 16:18 Pride *goes* before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall.
Proverbs 18:12 Before destruction the heart of a man is haughty, And before honor *is* humility.

II. The danger of pride. **Proverbs 8:12-13**

A. The Danger Before God

1. Pride is hated by God. (**Proverbs 6:16-17; 8:12-13**)
2. Pride is sin.
Proverbs 21:4 A haughty look, a proud heart, *And* the plowing of the wicked *are* sin.
3. Pride is an abomination to God.
Proverbs 16:5 Everyone proud in heart *is* an abomination to the LORD; *Though they join* forces, none will go unpunished.

B. The Danger to Humanity

1. Reflects the character of Satan. (**1 Timothy 3:16**)
Ezekiel 28:17 "Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor; I cast you to the ground, I laid you before kings, That they might gaze at you.
2. Forbidden fruit for Christians
1 Samuel 2:3 "Talk no more so very proudly; Let no arrogance come from your mouth, For the LORD *is* the God of knowledge; And by Him actions are weighed.
Romans 12:3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.
Psalms 101:5 Whoever secretly slanders his neighbor, Him I will destroy; The one who has a haughty look and a proud heart, Him I will not endure.
Psalms 131:1 LORD, my heart is not haughty, Nor my eyes lofty. Neither do I concern myself with great matters, Nor with things too profound for me.

Jeremiah 3:17 "At that time Jerusalem shall be called The Throne of the LORD, and all the nations shall be gathered to it, to the name of the LORD, to Jerusalem. No more shall they follow the dictates of their evil hearts.

3. Defiles the life of a man. (**Mark 7:20-22**)
4. Hardens the inner man.
Daniel 5:20 "But when his heart was lifted up, and his spirit was hardened in pride, he was deposed from his kingly throne, and they took his glory from him.
5. Hinders the knowing of God.
Psalms 10:4 The wicked in his proud countenance does not seek *God*; *God is* in none of his thoughts.
Proverbs 26:12 Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? *There is* more hope for a fool than for him.
Hosea 7:10 And the pride of Israel testifies to his face, But they do not return to the LORD their God, Nor seek Him for all this.
6. Puffs up the novice and immature. (**1 Timothy 3:16**)
7. Causes contention among people. (**James**)
Proverbs 3:10 So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine.
Proverbs 28:25 He who is of a proud heart stirs up strife, But he who trusts in the LORD will be prospered.

III. The destructive nature of pride. **Various Scriptures**

- A. God resists the proud.
James 4:6 But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."
- B. God dishonors the proud.
Isaiah 23:9 The LORD of hosts has purposed it, To bring to dishonor the pride of all glory, To bring into contempt all the honorable of the earth.
- C. God repays the proud.
Psalms 31:23 Oh, love the LORD, all you His saints! *For* the LORD preserves the faithful, And fully repays the proud person.
- D. God ruins the proud.
Jeremiah 13:9 "Thus says the LORD: `In this manner I will ruin the pride of Judah and the great pride of Jerusalem.
- E. God subdues the proud.
Exodus 18:11 "Now I know that the LORD *is* greater than all the gods; for in the very thing in which they behaved proudly, *He was* above them."
Isaiah 13:11 "I will punish the world for *its* evil, And the wicked for their iniquity; I will halt the arrogance of the proud, And will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible.

- F. God lays low the proud. (**Matthew 23:12**)
Psalm 18:27 For You will save the humble people, But will bring down haughty looks.
Isaiah 2:12 For the day of the LORD of hosts *Shall come* upon everything proud and lofty, Upon everything lifted up-- And it shall be brought low—
Daniel 4:37 Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, all of whose works *are* truth, and His ways justice. And those who walk in pride He is able to put down.
- G. God **scatters** the proud.
Luke 1:51 He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered *the* proud in the imagination of their hearts.
- H. God punishes the proud.
Matthew 4:1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.