

Pride

One of many God given emotions. Yet the one emotion that can get us cut off faster than any other. When we get caught up with pride it is easy for us to let it lead to other emotions. When ones pride gets hurt it can lead to anger, wrath, rage, tail bearing, sowing discord, sadness or depression. It can be said that Pride is the opposite of humility. Let's take a look at what the word of God says about pride.

God says that EVERYONE that is proud is an abomination to Him.

Proverbs 16:5

Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD: though hand join in hand, he shall not be unpunished.

Let's look at the definition of pride:

pride

NOUN:

- 1) A sense of one's own proper dignity or value; self-respect.
- 2) Pleasure or satisfaction taken in an achievement, possession, or association:
parental pride.
- 3) Arrogant or disdainful conduct or treatment; haughtiness.
- 4) An excessively high opinion of oneself; conceit.

There is really two different definitions for pride, one that I Look at myself as something special or better than others. And two, taking pleasure in my qualities or what I or a loved one can accomplish. We know that to be arrogant or full of conceit is not Godly, and it appears that there is nothing wrong with self-respect or being proud of the accomplishments that we or our children might attain. But are we not supposed to do everything we do in the name of Jesus, giving thanks to the Father for allowing us to have the skills and knowledge to make these accomplishments?

Colossians 3:17

17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

Look what Jesus said:

John 5:19

19 Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.

Remember that there are ways that seem right to man.

Proverbs 16:25

25 There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

We know that sin is the transgression of the law. Look what pride can lead to.

Proverbs 21:4

A high look, and a proud heart, and the plowing of the wicked, is sin.

Let's look at the definition of proud.

proud

- 1) Feeling pleasurable satisfaction over an act, possession, quality, or relationship by which one measures one's stature or self-worth**
- 2) Feeling or showing justifiable self-respect.**
- 3) Filled with or showing excessive self-esteem.**

Self-worth, self-respect, self-esteem. These can be summed up in one word, selfishness. When I truly start to believe that I have the power to accomplish things on my own or that my knowledge is somehow of my own making, this becomes false pride. Look what Paul said.

Galatians 6:3

3 For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.

All the knowledge we have is given to us by the Father. That is why when man sinned we had the right to the tree of life removed from us. We no longer have the access to the knowledge to learn how to live forever!

James 1:17

17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

To fear God and keep His commandments is the whole duty of man! Look at what part of fearing the Lord is.

Proverbs 8:13

The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogance, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.

We have addressed being arrogant, let's look at the definition of arrogance and forward.

ar·ro·gance

The state or quality of being arrogant; overbearing pride.

Froward

Perverse; deceitful; false.

Arrogance and froward, the complete opposite of humble!

Pride is always present before a fall! When people say or do something against something that we take pride in, we lash out at them. Prisons are full of people that were once filled with pride.

Proverbs 16:17-20

The highway of the upright is to depart from evil: he that keepeth his way preserveth his soul. 18 Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. 19 Better it is to be of a humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud. 20 He that handleth a matter wisely shall find good: and whoso trusteth in the LORD, happy is he.

True servants of God that have been given great gifts or talents don't wear this on their sleeves. They don't brag about their abilities. When they are confronted they give the praise and glory to God for blessing them. This is to humble ourselves before God.

James 4:10

Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

When a man truly humbles himself before God he doesn't seek worldly things. This includes the worldly accolades that go with others thinking that we are somehow special because of the things that we can accomplish, or seeking those same accolades because I feel that I somehow deserve them. When we are humble we don't seek pats on the back or awards. We don't seek rock star treatment when we walk into a room. We seek to stay out of the lime light rather than to walk in it. Instead we seek to be of help to others and give ALL praise and glory to whom it is due, to our God!

1 John 2:15-17

Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever.

When we allow pride to creep into our lives we become contentious.

Proverbs 13:10

Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom.

True servants of God know that He doesn't love everyone. Look at the six things that the Lord hates. Pride tops the list.

Proverbs 6:16-19

These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: 17 A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, 18 A heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, 19 A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

The Lord warned Israel on how they better not think they were better than the stranger.

Leviticus 19:33-34

**33 And if a stranger sojourn with thee in your land, ye shall not vex him.
34 But the stranger that dwelleth with you shall be unto you as one born among you, and thou shalt love him as thyself; for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.**

But the Lord is not a respecter of persons, He also warned the Gentiles on thinking they were better than Israel. This warning is really for all strangers.

Romans 11:18-21

**18 Boast not against the branches. But if thou boast, thou bearest not the root, but the root thee.
19 Thou wilt say then, The branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in.
20 Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear:
21 For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee.**

Take a good look at why Satan was thrown out of heaven. It was because of false pride! His heart was lifted up because of his beauty. He said in his heart that he would be like the most High!

Ezekiel 28:12-17

**Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty.
13 Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. 14 Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. 15 Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. 16 By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. 17 Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee**

to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee.

Isaiah 14:12-14

How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! 13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

Satan was puffed up and became filled with false pride. When this happened he turned away from seeking and serving God, he turned to his own ways. When we are full of pride our fruits will be that of the fruits of Satan.

Psalms 10:1-7

Why standest thou afar off, O LORD? why hidest thou thyself in times of trouble? 2 The wicked in his pride doth persecute the poor: let them be taken in the devices that they have imagined. 3 For the wicked boasteth of his heart's desire, and blesseth the covetous, whom the LORD abhorreth. 4 The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts. 5 His ways are always grievous; thy judgments are far above out of his sight: as for all his enemies, he puffeth at them. 6 He hath said in his heart, I shall not be moved: for I shall never be in adversity. 7 His mouth is full of cursing and deceit and fraud: under his tongue is mischief and vanity.

When we look at what the bible calls wickedness it always leads to vanity! And no matter what you call it, whether it be arrogance, forwardness, Self-worth, self-respect, self-esteem, conceit, it all starts with false pride.

van·ity

- 1) The quality or condition of being vain.
- 2) Excessive pride in one's appearance or accomplishments; conceit. See Synonyms at conceit.
- 3) Lack of usefulness, worth, or effect; worthlessness.
- 4a) Something that is vain, futile, or worthless.
- 4b) Something about which one is vain or conceited.

vain

- 1) Not yielding the desired outcome; fruitless: a vain attempt.
- 2) Lacking substance or worth: vain talk.
- 3) Excessively proud of one's appearance or accomplishments; conceited.
- 4) Archaic Foolish

con·ceit

A favorable and especially unduly high opinion of one's own abilities or worth.

The Lord has several examples of false pride leading to destruction written in His word. You can read this chapter on your own, but He even had a Gentile king come to the conclusions of where pride would lead us.

Daniel 4:37

37 Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase.

Pride is the downfall of all who don't put their trust in the Lord. All wickedness starts with excessive pride. When false pride sets in it leads to sin. This is why we must always guard our hearts so that we can serve this great God with everything that we have, never losing sight of the reward that awaits us!

Proverbs 29:22-23

An angry man stirreth up strife, and a furious man aboundeth in transgression. 23 A man's pride shall bring him low: but honor shall uphold the humble in spirit.

Psalms 40:4

Blessed is that man that maketh the LORD his trust, and respecteth not the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies.

Proverbs 28:25-26

He that is of a proud heart stirreth up strife: but he that putteth his trust in the LORD shall be made fat. 26 He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered.

Proverbs 11:2

2 When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom.