

Proverbs on Pride

PREACH IT, TEACH IT DEVOTIONAL

SCRIPTURE STUDY

Proverbs 6:16-18
 Psalm 101:5b
 Psalm 18:27
 Proverbs 21:4
 Proverbs 16:5
 Matthew 22:37, 39-40
 Isaiah 14:13-14
 Proverbs 11:2
 Proverbs 16:18
 2 Chronicles 32:24-26

PRAYER FOCUS

Dear Jesus,
 Help me to learn how to express
 my needs in a healthy way, and to
 discover how to humble myself
 before You, trusting everything to
 Your care.
 Amen



GOD HATES PRIDE

“The **Lord hates**...(a) **proud look** [the spirit that makes one **overestimate** himself and underestimate others]” Proverbs 6:17 (AMP) (emphasis added)

Strong words: “**The Lord hates.**” Proverbs 6:16-18 lists seven areas that are detestable to Him, starting with haughty eyes. Webster’s Dictionary defines haughty as “having or showing *great pride in oneself* and disdain, contempt, or scorn for others; *proud; arrogant; supercilious.*” (emphasis added)

In Psalm 101:5b God says:

“he who has a haughty look and a **proud** and arrogant heart
I cannot and I will not tolerate.” (AMP) (emphasis added)

In Psalm 18:27 David sang to the Lord:

“For You deliver an afflicted and humble people but will
bring down those with haughty looks.” (AMP) (emphasis added)

Solomon wrote in Proverbs 21:4:

“Haughtiness of eyes and a **proud heart**...are sin [in the eyes of God].
 (AMP) (emphasis added)

Again in Proverbs 16:5:

“The **LORD detests all the proud of heart.** Be sure of this:
 They will not go unpunished.” NIV) (emphasis added)

In our churches today we usually speak about God in terms of being loving, gentle, kind, compassionate, and merciful. Yet these verses speak of a God that “hates,” “will not tolerate,” and “will not let a proud heart go unpunished.” God is love, however He will not allow pride to go unpunished in the lives of His children.

- Re-read the Bible verses. Underline the parts that state God’s consequences for prideful living. Why is God so grieved at the pride we exhibit? What blessings are we missing because of a proud attitude?
- Take time in prayer about areas of pride in your life. If you had areas of pride revealed to you, confess them and give your praises to God for His greatness.
- Is there someone twohohat can mentor you as you work through the areas of self-reliance in your life?

WHY DOES GOD HATE PRIDE SO MUCH?

1) Pride ruins the ability to love God and love others.

In Matthew 22:37, 39-40 Jesus summarized all the Law and the Prophets into two commandments:

“...You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and all your mind (intellect). And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as [you do] yourself. These two commandments sum up and upon them depend all the Law and the Prophets.” (AMP)

Love God and love your neighbors as yourself. Pride ruins the ability to fulfill the great commandments because pride says, only love and take care of yourself. This philosophy of life ruins relationships and leads to isolation. God created us to live in community and pride robs us of God’s plan.

2) Pride is the root of all sin—another reason God hates it.

Satan was cast out of heaven because of pride. Satan said:

“I will ascend to heaven and set my throne above God’s stars.
I will climb to the highest heavens and be like the Most High.” Isaiah 14:13a-14 (NLT)

Satan used “become like him [God]” (Genesis 3:4a LB) with Eve in the Garden of Eden and she succumbed to pride. Because of that first sin all of us are born with the pride switch turned “On” and we work all our lives to keep it turned “Off”. It is important for us to keep our fingers on this Pride switch, because as soon as we start to remove our fingers the switch will immediately turn back On and Pride will come into our lives.

3) God also hates pride because He knows the resulting devastation that comes in the lives of people.

Solomon wrote in Proverbs:

“When pride comes, then comes disgrace” Proverbs 11:2 (NIV)

“Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.” Proverbs 16:18 (AMP)

Devastation is the result of pride in someone’s life and the ensuing effects flow into the lives of those around him. Hezekiah, King of Judah, in an example. He was ill and at the point of death, when he prayed to God and God gave him a miracle. However, Hezekiah was proud and didn’t respond appropriately to God. This caused God’s wrath to be on Hezekiah, and all the people living in Judah and Jerusalem. Finally, Hezekiah and the people of Jerusalem repented and the wrath of God didn’t come on them again during days of King Hezekiah’s reign. (2 Chronicles 32:24-26).

- Re-read the three premises. Spend time with God on each of these. What are some ways humility can deepen and enhance your relationships with God and others?
- When you think about Jesus' two great commandments, think about the phrase "love others as yourself?" Do you have a God-based self-esteem that gives you the freedom to love others? What are your greatest challenges in loving yourself as God loves you?

WHAT DOES PRIDE LOOK LIKE?

Since we're all born with the pride switch turned "On", dealing with pride is a daily battle. We are vulnerable to pride in various ways. We are often blind-sided by its many manifestations.

We all like to be appreciated for what we do, but a person can be victimized by pride when he or she gets wounded. For example, a proud person might let everyone know when they don't receive recognition or attention. We've all been in groups with Barry. He serves in church ministry for others to notice him and appreciate him. Barry has a legitimate need for attention and appreciation as we all do. However, instead of expressing his need in a healthy way and in the context of community, he hurts himself and others by his self-pity.

We've all met someone like Mary who becomes angry because she feels slighted. She expected to head a very powerful committee in her church. She felt entitled to such a prestigious position because she had gone to the church since its inception. Instead of handling her disappointment by mourning the hurt and receiving comfort from a trusted friend or spouse, Mary slandered everyone else who had been selected for the committee. Later she discovered that her name had been inadvertently left off of the list. We can make ourselves vulnerable to bitterness and anger (a foothold of Satan) when we think more highly of ourselves than we ought to think.

Shyness is also an over-concern with self. Instead of engaging in healthy relationships, shy Mary can be self-absorbed and fearful of rejection. She's the one sitting by herself or standing against the wall. She comes in late or leaves early. She doesn't want to talk to any one because she's so concerned that she might say or do the wrong thing and embarrass herself. Such fear, paranoia and isolation can rob us of abundant life.

- When you read the information above, is it a description of someone you know? Is it a description of you? How do you express your needs to others?
- Think of some people who embody the virtues of humility, servanthood, and confidence in God. Who are they? What do you notice about their lives?

God hates pride because He knows the devastation it causes His children. He is always ready to help us the moment we ask Him.