

PROVERBS SERIES EIGHT
WHY YOU WANT TO STAY AWAY FROM PRIDE
Dr. Roger Barrier
Proverbs 6:16; 8:12-13;11:2;13:10;16:5;29:23

“GOD HATES PRIDE” IS THE THEME OF PRIDE IN PROVERBS.

Proverbs 8:13: I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech.

Proverbs 16:5: The LORD detests all the proud of heart. Be sure of this: They will not go unpunished.

When we understand why God hates pride so deeply, we will hate it, too!

The path of wisdom does not lie along the road of pride. It lies along the road of humility.

WHAT IS PRIDE?

Finney: "Pride is a disposition to exalt self, to get above others, to hide our defects, and to pass for more than we are."

Webster: "Inordinate self esteem; conceit; ostentatious display."

"Some people call me outgoing, but it's not outgoing, it's me that's showing through all the time."

“Pride is an over concern with myself.”

Self-Reliance: “I don’t need you or anyone else. I am better than you and others.”

Self-Centeredness: “I will take from you to meet my needs.”

Self-Condensation: “You are better than I; therefore, we could never have a relationship.”

WHY DOES GOD HATE PRIDE SO MUCH?

1. Pride Ruins Our Ability To Fulfill The Greatest Commandments: Love God And Love Others (Matthew 22:37-40).

Let’s take the definition of pride and apply it to the Great Commandments.

| | God | Others | My Self |
|-------------------|-----|--------|---------|
| Self-Reliance | | | |
| Self-Centeredness | | | |
| Self-Condensation | | | |

Pride ruins relationships.

Proverbs 13:10: "Pride only breeds quarrels."

Proverbs 15:25: The LORD tears down the proud man's house but he keeps the widow's boundaries intact.

God is not out to hurt our pride. He's out to kill it.

2. God Hates Pride Because It Is The Root Of All Sin.

Proverbs 6:15-18

Pride is the root and wicked ways are the fruit. God wants to pull out the root, not just to prune off some fruit.

(By the way, pride is universal. We all have trouble with it. It is insidiously deceitful.)

3. God Hates Pride Because Of The Absolute Devastation That Pride Brings Into The Lives Of The People He Loves.

Proverbs 11:2: When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.

Proverbs 16:18: Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.

Proverbs 18:12: Before his downfall a man's heart is proud, but humility comes before honor.

1 Peter 5 is the pride chapter of the Bible: "Satan goes about like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour." What do you call a group of lions? A Pride. Pride allows Satan to have a field day in our lives.

HOW MIGHT PRIDE MANIFEST ITSELF DEEP IN OUR HEARTS?

It's a secret fondness to be noticed.

It's a love of supremacy.

It's drawing attention to ourselves in conversation.

It's enjoying being flattered.

It's a swelling out of self when you're free to speak - or to pray.

It's loving to have our name at the top of the list.

It's when the praise of men is sweet to our tastes.

WE HAVE BEEN TALKING ABOUT A SUPERIORITY COMPLEX (SELF-RELIANCE AND SELF-CENTEREDNESS). BUT, THE FLIP SIDE OF PRIDE IS WHAT WE MIGHT CALL AN INFERIORITY COMPLEX (SELF-CONDEMNATION).

I'm suggesting that our self-condemnation, shyness, and fear of what people think of us are nothing more than the flip side of pride, which is sin.

Why are you always withdrawing? Why? What's the problem? Perhaps you're afraid? You're afraid of what others will think of you. This is pride!

Pride Manifested as Self-Reliance and Self-Centeredness and Self-Condensation Fills the pages of scripture.

- The Parable Of The Lost Son (Luke 15:11-31)

- The Story Of The Rich Man And Lazarus, The Poor Beggar (Luke 16:19-31).

HUMILITY IS THE ANTIDOTE TO PRIDE

Proverbs 29:23: A man's pride brings him low, but a man of lowly spirit gains honor.

Proverbs 3:34: He mocks proud mockers but gives grace to the humble.

Proverbs 22:4: Humility and the fear of the LORD bring wealth and honor and life.

What does humility look like? Humility is allowing our needs to be met in the context of others.

Read Philippians 2:1-5: Meditate on the heart of Jesus: "He laid aside His reputation, when He came and stood by me."

Copies of today's sermon and others like it are available on the Plaza at the Shepherd's Heart Ministry table immediately after this service.