

The Pride of Life
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Introduction: What is the greatest sin?

- A. Pride may be the most dangerous of sins!
 - 1. The Lord leaves no doubt as to its danger. **(1 Jn 2:15-17; Isa 23:9)**
 - 2. What does God hate? **(Prov 8:13)**
- B. How is it possible for men and women with years of experience to leave the Lord with almost no shame?
 - 1. Israel did this often. **(Hosea 5:5; 7:10)**
 - 2. The appeal of modern denominations is in things of pride!
(Jude 1:16; Col 2:23)

I. What is Pride?

- A. There are several words that indicate pride: “Haughty, vainglory, high look..”
 - 1. Paul uses the word: “Puffed-up” - “to inflate, blow-up, blow out, to cause to swell up...fig. To make proud.”
 - 2. Have you ever said that someone is “full of hot air.” **(Prov 25:14)**
- B. Pride is an unrealistic view of one's abilities.
 - 1. The scriptures clearly warn us. **(Gal 6:3; Rom 12:3)**
 - 2. Be sure you do not confuse the Bible sin of pride with self-respect. There is a realm wherein we “ought to think”.
 - 3. An “inferiority complex” is not humility. Often these people will turn to pride as a mask of their internal insecurities.
- C. Pride comes from abundance, achievements and blessings, that is why it is so dangerous.
 - 1. Knowledge is good, but watch for pride. **(1 Cor 8:1-2)**
 - 2. Be careful at who you put into positions of responsibility. **(1 Tim 3:6)**
 - 3. The apostle Paul needed help to avoid pride. **(2 Cor 12:7)**

II. Identifying Pride in our Lives

- A. Pride is essentially competitive. You have to be the best.
 - 1. The more you have of pride, the more you notice it in others.
 - 2. A proud person is thin skinned. At his heart he is insecure.
 - 3. Pride is not satisfied with mere possession; he must have more than the other fellow. This is the root of envy. **(Mk 15:10)**
- B. Pride looks down on others. **(Luke 18:9)**
 - 1. There are quick to give harsh, unloving criticism.
 - 2. Why do some get joy in fault-finding? Is this really spirituality?
(Lk 7:33-34)
 - 3. It is not uncommon for someone to collect accounts of weaknesses of men who are in the public and tell others years after the event. (Ex. Preachers)
- C. Pride produces ingratitude. **(Rom 1:20-23)**
 - 1. Moses warned the children of Israel that they would give themselves credit for what God did. **(Deut 8:16-17)**
 - 2. What do we have that we didn't receive? **(1 Cor 4:6-7)**

- a. Here there is no room for boasting. (**Gal 6:14**)
- b. These “leaders” sought attention to themselves by God’s gifts.
- 3. Paul had a clear view of who he is before God. (**1 Cor 4:8-13**)
 - a. These leaders thought they were rich and full. (**Rev 3:14-19**)
 - b. Contrast this with what a worker for God will endure.
 - c. The world will praise these “leaders” and despise the other. Who does God praise? (**2 Cor 10:12, 17-18**)
- 4. We need to be careful in how we recommend preachers. When we give emphasis to one’s speaking ability are we appealing to the world or God?
 - a. When we think of ourselves as “thinking” and others as “traditional” we may be walking in the pathway of pride.
 - b. Because pride is essentially competitive then the one who possesses pride is often first to see it in another. They will be quick to judge another.
- 5. Only pride allows one to boast that he feels better than others because of what one has.
- D. Pride will cause one to take risks. (**1 Cor 8:1-3; 10:12, 21-22**)
 - 1. One may say: “I can go to the temple and it won’t bother me.”
 - 2. There are many things I don’t want to have anything to do with, i.e. alcohol, immorality, improper association with women.
 - 3. One who is humble acknowledges the fact... I can become an alcoholic, I can be unfaithful to my wife, I can be destroyed in pursuit of money.
- E. Pride despises simple things. (**1 Cor 1:18-25**)
 - 1. It may be the simple lecture that instills God’s word in our child’s heart
 - 2. What was Naaman’s error? (**2 Kings 5:11-12**)
 - 3. In organization, worship, plan of salvation...God has always majored in things that are simple. People turn up their noses...beneath their dignity to sing...be baptized
 - 4. Pride has been at the center of nearly every apostasy.
 - 5. Pride seeks status and false symbols. (**1 Tim 6:17**)
- F. Pride produces self sufficiency.
 - 1. The middle letter in pride and sin is “I”. Ex. “I am a self made man.”
 - 2. Pride causes one to be intolerant in their study of the Bible. (**1 Tim 6:3-4**)
 - 3. Rather than admit they are wrong they will use names and labels to attack others. (**3 John 9-10**)
 - 4. Pride causes men to do foolish things and never make it right. (Ex. Man who quit and briefly attended a liberal church.)
 - 5. Pride stifles the work of God. Proud men will pit brethren against one another in an atmosphere of suspicion. They are sensitive people! (Ex. Saul) (**1 Sam 22:8**)

Conclusion: What is the final end of the proud?

- A. God will destroy the proud in hell. (**Prov 15:25; 16:18; 1 Cor 10:12; Jas 4:6**)
- B. Please do not take this sin lightly!