



“I shall always be ready to remind you of these things...”
2 Peter 1:21

Our Universal Weakness, Part II

By Alex Hale

Max Lucado has written, “The self-centered see everything through self. Their motto? ‘It’s all about me!’ The flight schedule, the traffic, the dress styles, the worship styles, the weather, the work – everything is filtered through the mini-me in the eye.” Pride is conceit or egotism. It is an attitude of superiority which manifests itself in arrogance and boasting.

It is like a conversation a flight attendant once had with a young Mohammad Ali. Ali was on an airplane and refused to fasten his seat belt. The flight attendant came up to him and asked him to do so, but he said, “Superman don’t need no seat belt.” Without missing a beat, she looked at him and said, “Superman don’t need no plane.” Pride is the assumption that we are somehow better than other people, or more important than others; the idea is that the rules should be somehow different for us or that they do not apply. Pride can even make us think we are more important than God (Isa 14:13-15; Gen 3:1-15).

How do we identify pride? Can I share with you some characteristics of prideful people? These are taken from *Discipleship Journal*, as well as John Ortberg’s *The Life You’ve Always Wanted*. Perhaps these will help us as we each think about our own life.

1. Proud people may have a **spotty prayer life**. This suggests that we do not actively rely on God because we proudly think we can do it on our own without His help.
2. Proud people may become **weary**. This is the inevitable result of pride and it comes from trying to do everything on our own strength.
3. Proud people are often **angry**. This can indicate that we are not trusting God’s plan and timing and that we are upset when things do not go our way (and things never go our way when we ignore God’s guidance).
4. Pride carries with it **a critical spirit**. Many times the proud person seeks to bring others down in order to lift themselves up. I’m reminded, however, of the quote from Abraham Lincoln, “Short men do not grow taller by cutting the legs off of tall men.”
5. Proud people often **take responsibility for success**. This may mean that we have lost sight of God’s grace and providential care.
6. Proud people will typically be **impatient**. How do you react when you have to listen to others? When you have to wait? When you are called upon to serve others? When you must be led by someone else? If you are impatient about those things, that suggests pride.
7. Pride is often coupled with **vanity**. Proud people are preoccupied with their appearance or image. This often is the center of their conversation.
8. Proud people **compare themselves to others**. They tend to judge themselves in comparison to other people (Lk 18:14-18). C.S. Lewis wrote, “A proud person is always looking down on things and people – and of course, as long as you are looking down, you cannot see something [or Someone] Who is above you.” Many people believe they will be found pleasing to God if they can find someone who is more sinful than them. This is mistakenly believing that God grades on the curve, when in reality He grades on the cross.
9. Proud people are often **stubborn**. They tend to shun correction and are often defensive (Prov 29:1).



CABOT WESTSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

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When We Meet

Sunday

Bible Classes – 9:00 am
 Worship – 10:00 am, 5:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Classes – 7:00 pm

Our Elders

R.D. Hopper
 Norman Kemper

Our Deacons

Troy Hunter
 Kelly Kendall
 Tony Ramick

Our Preacher

Alex Hale