



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

Our Universal Weakness, Part III

By Alex Hale

C.S. Lewis has written, “There is one vice of which no man in the world is free; which everyone in the world loathes when he sees it in someone else; and of which hardly any people, except Christians, ever imagine that they are guilty of themselves: pride.”

What is wrong with pride?

Pride opens the door to other sins (Prov 16:18). There is a reason that pride (or some form of it) is mentioned in every list of deadly sins in scripture. Lewis states, “Pride leads to every other vice; it is the complete anti-God state of mind.” When I feel that I do not have enough, I give in to greed. When I feel like I should have been honored, I give in to envy. When my pride is hurt, I give in to anger.

Pride prevents personal growth. When we think we have it all together, we lose motivation to keep learning, growing, developing, and changing (Prov 10:17). As one has said, “When the head starts swelling the mind stops growing.” Pride often keeps us from getting necessary help. If we have marriage problems and we will not talk to anyone about it, that is pride. If we have financial problems but we do not want to admit it and ask for help, that is pride. If we are struggling with our kids but do not ask for help, that is pride. Pride makes us prefer to look smart more than to actually be smart. Pride makes us prefer to look like we have our act together than to actually do what it takes to get our act together.

Pride poisons relationships (Prov 13:10). The root of all conflict and disharmony is pride. When we act out of pride, we tend to be demanding, unsympathetic, obnoxious, and rude. One has said, “Pride is the only disease that makes everyone sick except the person who has it.” Proud people are not desirable companions.

Pride makes growing a relationship with God impossible. You cannot become a disciple until you humble yourself and admit that you are a sinner and cannot make it on your own. Pride is the wall that will keep a sinner from a relationship with God.

How do we defeat pride?

Know your role (Psa 100:1-3; 1 Cor 15:10). Recognize that without God, we would be lost. Understand that anything good that happens is because of God (Jas 1:17). Redirect your thoughts, transforming pride into praise. As Isaac Watts wrote in his hymn, “When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of Glory died – my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.”

Take the needs of others seriously. Being humble is not having low self-esteem or being a doormat for other people to walk all over. Humble people are not always putting themselves down. They do not have inferiority complexes and are not weak. Rather, they are strong and secure in the God who made them. Humility is the mark of emotionally healthy people, whereas pride is the mark of emotionally insecure people. Humility is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking less *about* self and more about others.



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