

Pride

- Sometimes preachers preach from real life experiences. Such sermons make some of the better lessons because of the understanding personally gained and because they can apply to most every member. The lesson of pride is one such subject that no one is immune from infection by it. So as we look into this detestable sin and the damage it has the potential to cause, let's not look at the person next to us and say within "*I know he's not talking about me, he must be talking about (my wife, my husband, etc.)*". That would be giving in to **Satan's** deception.

1Jn 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

- Let's not deceive ourselves. Remember, for an alcoholic to even begin to get on the wagon he first has to admit he has a problem. How many people do you know that are "drunk" on pride? Are you? This is a very serious topic we are all subject to improvement on, to one extreme or another. As we listen (*read*) we need to focus on our own individual attitudes concerning it, if our pride will let us. And nowhere in the **Bible** when the word "pride" is used (*or other forms of it*) is it used in a positive manner. But we understand the evolution of words that in time can mean something totally different than, or in addition to, what they first meant. Pride is such a word. It can be defined in terms both negatively and positively. The negative having to do with arrogance and the positive when referring to dignity or satisfaction. In this lesson we'll be dealing with the **Bible** definition of pride in its negative form.

Pride is what caused Satan's fall.

Gen 3:1 Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? (*The serpent here is later understood as Satan as per Rev.12:9; 20:2.*)

2Co 11:3 But I fear, lest by any means, **as the serpent beguiled** Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

"...the being known in the Bible as Satan was not created as Satan, i.e., as an adversary. He was created good, but he became bad..." Wayne Jackson

Gen 1:31 And God saw everything that He had made (*among which was Satan*), and, behold, *it was* very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

- When the disciples returned after receiving power to cast out demons "through Thy name" (*Lk 10:17*), as they told **Jesus** by what power they were able to do such, notice **Jesus'** response.

Luk 10:18 And He said unto them, **I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.**

"They triumphed in casting devils out of the bodies of people; but Christ sees and rejoices in the fall of the devil from the interest he has in the souls of men, which is called his power in high places, Eph 6:12."
Matthew Henry

- They witnessed the physical phenomenon of an exorcism but **Jesus** saw the spiritual consequences of the ultimate battle that **Satan** was destined to lose.

Rev 12:9 And the great dragon was cast out, that **old serpent**, called the **Devil**, and **Satan**, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

- “But when the fullness of the times was come” (*Gal 4:4*), man was given an “advocate” (*1 Jn 2:1*). So when **Christ** ascended to “the right hand of the Majesty on high” (*Heb 1:3*) and **Satan** followed shortly thereafter he found that he had “but a short time” (*Rev 12:12*) to persecute the church. And he did it through the sin of pride via the **Roman** persecution and the deification of the **Caesars**.

Rev 13:5 And there was given unto him a mouth **speaking great** (*Gk.3173- big: high*) **things** and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty *and* two months. (*Pride is a very dangerous thing for any leader to have!*)

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Satan's children have his spiritual DNA.

Gen 3:15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between **thy seed** (*Satan had and continues to have offspring*) and her seed; it (*He, referring to Christ*) shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise His heel.

1Jn 3:8 **He that committeth sin is of the devil**; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

Mat 23:33 *Ye serpents, ye* **generation** (*Gk.1081- offspring*) **of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of Hell?**

- Once again, **Jesus** didn't mix words or even try to be about making friends when he told the **Scribes** and **Pharisees** that they were the offspring of poisonous snakes, which is about as low as a person could get. Such pride can and does exist in the church today by being negative when we don't get our own way on things and developing attitudes toward others because of it. It can and will keep the church from growing. Lying would also fall under the classification of “the pride of life” (*1 Jn 2:16*) so when a person lies about something, just about anything, it is out of being prideful to at least some extent. Thus lying would also make one an offspring of the vilest serpent that ever existed, the devil.

Joh 8:44 **Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh the lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.**

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Pride is considered when choosing a man to serve as an elder.

1Ti 3:6 Not a novice, lest being lifted up with **pride** he fall into the condemnation (*Gk.2917- a decision*) of the devil. 7 Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach (*Gk.3680- reproach [defamation]*) and the snare (*Gk.3803- a trap; a trick or stratagem [temptation]*) of the devil.

- Pride was the sin that condemned **Satan** and it was his decision to commit it. His snare is in the tools he uses to get others to fall into that same condemnation. Of the three main classifications that every sin falls under, pride is of such a destructive nature that it has its own category.

1Jn 2:16 For all that *is* **in the world**, the **lust of the flesh**, and the **lust of the eyes**, and the **pride of life**, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

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Pride can and does destroy marriages.

But we are to “obey God rather than men” (*Acts 5:29*).

- The women’s liberation movement has done so much to harm the freedom women gained through the gospel of **Christ** because “**if the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed**” (*Jn 8:36*). Submission, then, according to the **pride of feminism**, would be considered anathema. But, according to the will of **God**...

Eph 5:22 Wives, submit yourselves (*Gk.5293- to subordinate; reflexively to obey: -submit self to*) [*not my words, the word of God*] unto your own husbands, **as** (*Gk.5613- in that manner*) **unto the Lord** (*Your submission to the Lord is seen in the way you submit to your husband.*). 23 For the husband is the head (*Gk.2776- supreme, chief, prominent*) of the wife, **even as** Christ is the head of the church (*Again, submission to the husband is to equal the level of submission the church is to have toward Christ.*): **and** He **is the** saviour of the body (*Gk.4983- Thayer: of which spiritual body Christ is head, Who by the influence of His Spirit works in the church as the soul does in the body.*). 24 Therefore **as** the church is subject unto Christ, **so** let the wives *be* to their own husbands in everything (*Gk.3956- all, any, every, the whole*). (*Of course husbands are not to take advantage of this either!*)

- It must be difficult for a woman, when becoming a wife, to give up her freedom of having to answer to no one but herself and to submit to the **God** given authority of a husband. Specifically when feminism tells her that she has some sort of “joint authority” with her husband that only puts her in the same position that **Eve** attempted to assume, which actually belonged solely to **Adam**. And **Adam** accepted it and we see where that went. Likewise, for a man to give up his freedom of having no one but himself to fend for, only to take on the responsibility of caring for his wife and their children, if they were to have any (*whether his, hers or theirs*). What ever happened to the stability in knowing our places? Have we gotten things backwards? It would be especially difficult, as I have personally come to understand, when combining two distinct family dynamics into one, preferably functional, household. In either case, the husband/wife relationship is to emulate the **Biblical, Christ/church** relationship in order to be pleasing to **God**. Selfishness is the sin of pride when “it’s my way or the highway”.

1Ti 2:13 For Adam was first formed, then Eve. 14 And Adam **was not deceived**, but the woman **being deceived** was in the **transgression**. 15 Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety.

“The reference to woman being saved in childbearing is seen by Roberts to mean, ‘that childbearing is taken as the typical function of woman’s place as wife, mother, and keeper of the home. That woman will be saved, not by seeking man’s place but by keeping her own place in God’s scheme, which may well be summed up by

'childbearing.' This is only true **if** she continues to exhibit self-control, obedient faith toward God, love for God and her fellow man and generally remains set apart to God's service."
Gary Hampton

- It's not that all women are spiritually saved when they give birth. If that were the case then **Jesus** didn't have to die "for the sins of the whole world" (1 Jn 2:2). And there are women who can never mother a child so does this mean they can never be saved? Of course not. How unfair would that be of **God**? And since childbearing is a status that men can never assume it then needs to be interpreted as a representation of her status, of where she stands in relation to men in common, if pride doesn't keep women overall from assuming it.

Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even **as** Christ also loved the church (*a man's love for his wife is to emulate the love that Christ has for His church*), and gave Himself for it (*Gk.846-her*); (*Husbands are to love their wives to the point of dying for them! What wife wouldn't submit herself to such a husband?!*) 26 That He might sanctify (*Gk.37- to make holy, that is, purify or consecrate; venerate [Webster: look upon with feelings of deep respect]*) and cleanse (*Gk.2511- purge*) it (*her*) with the washing (*Gk.3067- loo-tron'- a bath, that is, [figuratively] baptism*) of **water** (*notice he doesn't say Holy Spirit here!*) by (*Gk.1722- through*) the word (*according to what the Bible teaches on baptism –Jn 3:5*), 27 That He might present (*Gk.3936- to stand beside, recommend*) it (*her*) to Himself a glorious (*Gk.1741- noble: -[spiritually] gorgeous [-ly]*) church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing (*ladies you can put away the wrinkle cream, that's not what the passage is stating*); but that it (*she*) should be holy (*Gk.40- sacred [physically pure, morally blameless or religious, ceremonially consecrated]{ set apart}: -saint*) and without blemish (*Gk.299- unblameable*). 28 **So** (*Gk.3779- in this way*) ought men to love their wives **as their own bodies**. He that loveth (*Gk.25*) his wife loveth himself (*as we take care of them we take care of ourselves*). 29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:

- Even a person that commits suicide doesn't hate their own body. As difficult as this may seem to attain, the relationship where pride is almost to non-existent can achieve a higher level of respect and love within it. But where any amount of pride, in both or even in one, within the relationship there cannot be what **God** desires for it.

Eph 5:30 For we are members (*Gk.3196- a limb or part of the body*) of His body, of His flesh, and of His bones. 31 For this cause shall a man leave (*Gk.2641- to leave down, that is, behind; by implication to abandon: -forsake*) his father and mother, and shall be joined (*Gk.4347- to glue to, that is, [figuratively] to adhere: -cleave*) unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh (*Gk.4561- as the means of kindred*) [*becomes the new family*]. 32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

- When we marry, our spouses **become** our flesh and blood, consummated at the moment we said "I do". It is a **spiritual** contract between **God**, the husband and the wife. Even atheists that enter a marital commitment are entering it with **God** because **He** is the **One Who** sanctions marriage and has so done since **He** created **Eve** "and brought her unto the man" (*Gen 2:22*). As **Christians** we become part of **Christ's** body, flesh and bone which is spiritual and carries more weight than the physical. The relationship between **Christ** and **His** church was decided in eternity before man and woman were ever created. It was for this purpose, ultimately, that the spiritual part of the marital relationship between husband and wife was created to show the intimacy that is to exist between the **Lord** and

His bride, the church. Therefore, if nothing physical **ever** occurs between partners in marriage, that doesn't mean the three pronged spiritual aspect of the relationship is made null and void. If pride enters a marriage when this occurs, and pride is what then brings about an adulterous relationship ("*whosever looketh upon a woman [or man] to lust after her [him] hath committed adultery with her [him] already in his [her] heart*" *Mat 5:28*), then it was pride that brought about the other two categories of sin ("*lust of the flesh...of the eyes*" -*1 Jn 2:16*).

Eph 5:33 Nevertheless let every one of you (*husbands*) in particular so love (*Gk.25- to have preference for, wish well to, regard the welfare of*) his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence (*Gk.5399- to be in awe of*) her husband.

- We may giggle at the statement that wives are "to be in awe of" their husbands. If you're not in awe of your husband, something needs to be corrected that the **Biblical** command can be obeyed. The fault lies with either the husband or the wife, not with the command.

1Pe 3:7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with (*Gk.4924- to reside together [as a family]*) them according to knowledge ("*In accordance with an intelligent view of the nature of the relation; or, as becomes those who have been instructed in the duties of this relation according to the gospel.*" Albert Barnes), giving honour (*Gk.5092- value; esteem [especially of the highest degree], or dignity itself: -precious*) unto the wife, as unto the weaker (*just means she has less physical strength, normally, than her husband; don't think I'd have ever wanted to marry a woman that could out bench press me*) vessel (*Gk.4632- implement [specifically a wife as contributing to the usefulness of the husband]* **Pro 31:23*), and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers (*Gk.4335- prayer [worship]*) be not hindered (*Gk.1581- to cut off; figuratively to frustrate*).

Pro 31:23 Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land.

- In other words, a wife that brings honor to her husband so that he is considered among the wisest of his contemporaries because he chose her. See how the marital relationship can survive without the dysfunction that pride can only bring to it?
- In the same manner that wives are to impress upon their husbands the idea of a gentle nature, the husband is to return such when it comes to his temperament and treatment of his wife. (*This requirement, to the husband and to the wife, would be difficult for those who are not humble to the word of God.*) The purpose for this is so that their spiritual lives are not to be found wanting. When they come together for worship they cannot have strife between them because it would only frustrate their worship toward God.

Pro 16:5 Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination (*Heb.8441- disgusting [morally]*) to the LORD: though hand join in hand, he shall not be unpunished. **6** By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil.

- No matter what forces are joined to escape the wrath of God, pride has always been, and will always be ("*For I Am the Lord, I change not... -Mal 3:6*) morally disgusting to God and anyone who has not dealt with the issue of personal pride will not inherit the kingdom of Heaven! Only by revering the God of Heaven can we ever turn away from our pride. Remember when Moses, because of pride, struck the rock instead of speaking

to it and wasn't permitted to go into the promised land? His pride was evident when he called the people "rebels" and asked "**must we fetch**" the water for you and not "God has fetched it" (*Num 20:10-12*).

Gal 5:19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are *these*; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, 21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, **and such like**: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told *you* in time past, that **they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God**. 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 **Meekness, temperance**: against such there is no law. 24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and **lusts**. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. 26 Let us not be desirous of vain glory (*Gk.2755- self conceited [proud]*), provoking one another, envying one another.

- Pride is a very dangerous thing when gone unchecked. Often something drastic needs to happen to wake many of us up to realize we too might be under its influence. Like when I didn't know I had a slow growing tumor. I was thankful for an accident at work that made the doctors look deeper into the area which ultimately found it. Had it gone unchecked who knows where it might be in its growth at this point. Likewise with pride. If a person doesn't understand, or worse even **want** to realize, that they have succumbed to it, and it continues to grow, the effects of the growth could be devastating. And only the **Great Physician** can remove it through the sword of the spirit, the word of **God**.

#1. Have you heard?

Eph 1:13 In Whom ye also *trusted*, **after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation**: in Whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

#2. Do you believe?

- Many, many people believe in the faith that was handed down through their families. They, through pride, are unwilling to listen to the **Bible's** definition of faith and the truth that will set them free (*Jn 8:32*).

1Th 2:13 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, **when ye received** the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received *it* not *as* the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that **believe**.

#3. Have you repented?

Mar 2:17 ...**They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.**

- Pride is the sin of self-righteousness that will never save anyone who is affected by it.

Rom 3:10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:
Rom 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

#4. Have you acknowledged Christ as the Son of God, Who alone can save you?

Act 8:37 And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

#5. Have your sins been washed away?

1Pe 3:21 The like figure whereunto *even* baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but **the answer of a good conscience** toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:

#6. If you've done all these things, have you remained faithful?
Romans 6:4 "...we also should walk in newness of life."

#7. Are you growing?
2Pe 3:18 But grow in grace, and *in* the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To Him *be* glory both now and forever. Amen.

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