

## **Pride and Humbleness**

*Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life [the vain glory/the boastful], is not of the Father, but is of the world.*(1JO2:15-16) For all that is in the world, it can boast of, or that enters into the aims and purposes of those who live for this life. This life be comprised under the three things. (1) The lust of the flesh – of the body: wrong desires of the heart, the appetite of indulging all things that excite, inflame sensual pleasures and impure desires which seek their gratification in women, strong drink, delicious food, and the like.(JAM1:14) or all that is connected with the indulgence of the mere animal tendency. (2) Lust of the eyes – That which is designed merely to gratify the sight. Inordinate desires after finery of every kind, gaudy dress/costly clothes, splendid houses, superb furniture, expensive equipage, trappings and decorations of all sorts. The object is to refer to the frivolous vanities of this world, the thing on which the eye delights to rest, this is the lust of covetousness (by means of unrighteous mammon -deceitful riches; money, possessions, or whatever is trusted in) where there is no higher object of life or reference to the world to come. (3) Pride of life - a vain man craves the luxury and pomp of a vain-glorious life; this includes thirst after honor and applause. It refers to whatever there is that tends to promote pride, such as hunting after honors, titles and pedigrees; boasting of ancestry, family connections, great offices, honorable acquaintance and the like. *all such boasting is evil*(JAM4:16)*Be not conformed to this world*(ROM12:2) The vainglory of life is the vainglory which belongs to the present life. All these desires are not from God, but from the prince of this world. Nothing of these inordinate attachments either comes from or leads to God. They are of this world; here they begin, flourish & end. They deprave the mind, divert it from Divine pursuits and render it utterly incapable of spiritual enjoyments. *For to be carnally minded (minding the things of the flesh) is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.*(ROM8:6-8) The things of the world may be desired and possessed for the uses and purposes which God intended, and they are to be used by his grace and to his glory [Be faithful steward]; but must not seek or value them for those purposes to which sin abuses them. Remember, the things of the world quickly fade and die away; desire itself will fail and cease, but holy affection is not like the lust that passes away. The love of God shall never fail. The world draws the heart from God; and the more the love of the world prevails, the more the love of God decays. Those who fill their lives with "the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life" need to be advised and warned, for "*the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever*"(1JOH2:16-17) Unless this victory over the world is begun in the heart, a man has no root in himself, but will fall away. Yet these vanities, the world has that many find attractive, and most find it difficult to resist, so alluring to the corruption in our hearts, that without constant watching and prayer, we cannot escape the world, or obtain victory over the god and prince of it. The sources of love to God and love to the world are irreconcilably distinct.(JAM4:4;DEU6:5)

Pride was Satan's sin whereby he fell and forms the link between the foes of man. Five senses; taste, touch, smell, hearing, and seeing, all report to the carnal mind. These senses are what Satan uses to tempt us! The lust of the flesh includes tasting, touching, smelling and hearing. The lust of the eyes is seeing. The pride of life is thinking you are great because of who you are, what you have, what you know, or what you look like. The enemy uses these three things, to entice us to sin. Scripture shows this process at work in both the Garden of Eden and on the Mount of Temptation. In the Garden of Eden: The woman saw that the tree was good for food-the lust of the flesh, and that it was pleasant to the eyes-the lust of the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise-the pride of life, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat.(GEN3:6) One manifestation of the pride of life, the desire to know above what God has revealed, the pride of unsanctified knowledge. (COL2:8) Eve was deceived, Adam disobeyed, sin came into the world and death passed upon all men by sin, for that ALL have sinned. On the Mount of Temptation: Satan tried this temptation on Christ in setting Him on the temple pinnacle that, in spiritual pride and presumption, on the ground of His Father's care, He should cast Himself down. When the tempter came to Jesus, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread(MAT4:3)-the lust of the flesh. The devil taketh him up into an high mountain and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them; And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee. (8-9)-the lust of the eyes. Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down(5,6)-the pride of life. The same three enemies appear in three classes of soil on which the divine seed falls: the wayside hearers, the devil; the thorns, the world; the rocky under-soil, the flesh.(MAT13:18-23) It was that old serpent, devil himself who introduced Eve to this sin of pride, eager to share his condemnation with others. Through the power of the Spirit, with the Sword of the Spirit, Christ successfully resisted the temptations of the Devil and now we can too!

### Signs of Pride

Pride was the character flaw that caused many to fail, it is also the stumbling block for many ministers. Proverbs declares that "*when pride comes, then comes dishonor*"(11:2) and "*Pride goes before destruction. And a haughty spirit before stumbling*"(16:18) Remember the Biblical story of Nebuchadnezzar, the king, who was made to live and eat with the beasts of the field and wild donkeys because of his pride?(DAN5:21) Pride is probably the major reason for a lack of favor with God and therefore lack of success in ministry. It is also the major root issue in failure. "*God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble*"(JAM4:16) Though this failure principle is commonly known in ministry circles, few of us readily admit to having pride and still fewer seem to actively repent. Because pride can be very subtle in its manifestations, many do not know the signs of pride. Consider the following characteristics of hidden pride and see if God reveals any indications of pride in your life. Ask yourself and/or those who know you well if they see any of these characteristics in your life. (1) *Insecurity* is the root of many unhealthy and ungodly behaviors. It provokes us to want the lavish praise and attention of others too much. Much of pride is motivated out of one's unmet need for self-worth. Finding one's identity and security in Christ is a must to avoid pride. (2) *The need to be right*. Ever encounter someone who has a hard time being wrong? This is a symptom of pride. The need to be right prevents one from appropriately evaluating issues as well as themselves.(GAL6:3) A person who needs to be right has an exalted himself or herself and thinks that he/she knows better than others. The need to be right is frequently manifest through always saying 'God told me'! (3) *Being argumentative*. Individuals, who argue their point of view, especially to those in authority over them, are allowing pride to get the best of them. At the root of their argument is a belief that they are right and the other is wrong and that their will should prevail. It is appropriate to advocate for a point of view. (4) *More invested in being heard than in hearing*. When someone develops a pattern of needing others to listen to them rather than first hearing others, pride is motivating the need. Oftentimes, the individual does not feel loved or valued unless people "hear them out" In truth, this is often just an expression of insecurity and pride. (5) *Anger* is a self-justifying emotion. This means that the nature of anger is to prompt us to justify our position and blame another for the wrongdoing. Justification of self leads to denial of our own wrongdoing. (JAM1:20) An individual who is angry a lot is suffering from pride. (6) *Irritability and impatience*. The root of impatience in life is anger and therefore pride. When we are unable to be patient with another and are irritated, it demonstrates a haughty view of self. We feel that our views, time or needs are more important than the other persons. This again is more an indication of our pride than someone else's slow movement or imperfection. (7) *Lack of submissive attitude*. Submission is the voluntary placement of oneself under the influence, control, authority of another. When an individual pledges their submission to you or another, yet is critical or argumentative of that authority, then pride is the hidden issue. (8) *Not easily corrected*. Ever work or live with someone who won't receive any negative or corrective feedback? This too is pride. We should easily entreated and able to receive the negative feedback and commit to pray about it, seek counsel and get back with what conclusions. (9) *Receiving correction but not changing*. A man who often would receive correction and say thanks for the feedback, but would never change. This too is a form of pride. The individual wanted to hear but not really taking the feedback to heart. His insecurity and fear prevented him from truly changing. (10) *Needing others to take your advice*. Counselors, easily fall into the trap of having to have others take their advice. Advice should always be offered without strings attached. If you find yourself resenting the fact that your advice is not followed, look deeper at the motivating issues in your life. (11) *Needing to proclaim your title or degrees*. A person requires everyone to call him 'pastor', saying that he has deservedly earned the title. Demanding that others call you 'doctor' or 'pastor' is usually a way of making you 'one up' and them 'one down'. Once again, pride is fueling the requirement. (12) *Being stubborn*. stubbornness as unduly determined to exert one's own will, not easily persuaded and difficult to handle or work, resistant. The root issue of stubbornness is willfulness, which is 'I want what I want when I want it'. Another name for pride. (13) *Comparisons and competition*. Comparison is a form of competition.(2COR10:12) For example, emphasizing the size of one's church, the number of converts, etc. However, it can also be the subtle sin of heart that inwardly grieves when another is more successful or rejoices when another pastor's ministry enters hard times. The motive of heart is pride. (14) *Self-centered* The danger is easily make the mistake that the prophet Ezekiel warned about: "They transformed the beauty of His ornaments into pride"(EZE7:20) If you look at the radiance of God upon you without praising Him for each of God's attributes the result will be that you will have "Self-centered pride" Thank the Lord that you don't have to exalt yourself with His presence. *Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment* (ROM12:3) No one should inflate themselves, have confidence in self, or think highly of himself. All of this is pride and pride blinds us to the truth. When the blind lead the blind, they both fall into the ditch.(LUK6:39).

### **The Pride of Life**

The pride of life is a vain craving for honor and applause, or the stubborn mind-set that will not allow one to repent of and confess their sins. Saul's life is an example of how led him to pride and his own demise.(ISA15:1- In the OT, the Lord referred to pride as being hard hearted or stiff-necked. We demonstrate pride when we are unwilling to admit and correct wrong in our lives. Proverbs speaks about selfish pride and destruction it brings. "*by pride comes nothing but strife*"(PRO13:10;HAB2:4) Seven things God hates, relate to pride(haughty) (PRO6:16-19) Pride is one of the three major areas of sin.(1JO2:15-16) But it seems to be the area, Christians most tolerate and accept in their lives, and in other's lives. Seldom will be tolerate lust of the flesh, but often do we excuse pride and the result behavior. It's imperative that we deal with pride in our lives, or else we'll be lost! *The Lord detests all the proud of heart. Be sure of this: They will not go unpunished.*(PRO16:5)

Pride is one of Satan's attributes.(EZE28:17) It was this sin, which transformed, an anointed cherub of God, the very "seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty," into fallen Angel. We're warned to guard our hearts against pride lest we too "fall into the same condemnation as the devil". Many today are afflicted with this same pride. Those in the world are seeking beauty today as never before. Spiritual beauty is also a deadly trap. God blesses many with His gifts and talents, but then those same gifts become a source of pride when the people cease to be able to handle them with humility. They begin seeing themselves as better than others and soon take credit for their holiness/spirituality instead of glorifying God. This ultimately leads to their fall.(MAT7:22-23) What happens when we fail to acknowledge God is responsible for everything we are, have, and do in this life? A story in the Bible describes about Uzziah, who was just sixteen when he became king of Judah. He was very successful in everything he did. We learn right away the reason for his success.(2CH26:4-5) Uzziah wanted to know God, and he put himself under the instruction of a prophet who taught him God's Word and God's ways. God responded by giving Uzziah success in every area of his life. He also gave him victory over Israel's enemies, so that Uzziah became famous and very powerful. But little by little, something happened to Uzziah. *After Uzziah became powerful, his pride led to his downfall.*(26:15,16)

So what is the pride that God hates? Definition of pride is: "high, lifted up, rise, lofty, exalted" Pride involves self-exaltation, haughtiness, presumption; an unreasonable conceit of one's own superiority in talents, beauty, wealth, accomplishments, position in office. Pride is the root of all sin. Pride is self-orientation, contrary to grace of God. A proud person is boastful, arrogant, ungrateful.(2TI3:1-2;ROM1:30) A proud person doesn't want to associate with lowly people.(JAM2:9) Are you in life who do favoritism/partiality? A proud person is self-righteous: unforgiving person, who expects others to forgive him. Uncontrolled anger which has its roots in selfish pride. Anger is a temptation of the devil. "Pride proceeds from within and defiles a man"(MAR7:22) Proud people do not love God, nor seek glory of God. Inverted pride based on insecurities "poor me" self pity. Every person has developed patterns of pride. The sin of pride is a preoccupation with self "I" me, myself. We read of Lucifer's fall.(ISA14:12-17) Evaluate your motives. If you are preoccupied with yourself, you are suffering from the sin of pride. Pleasure and satisfaction can slip over the edge and fall into pride when we think we are important or superior. It manifests itself in our thoughts and lives. Haughty in mind.(ROM12:16) Knowledge for the wrong reasons(i.e.own glory) will lead to a proud heart, but love edifies!(1CO8:1;13:4) If you are filled with the pride of life, you will not be able to keep the command to imitate Christ humility.(PHI2:3-5)

Why is pride so sinful? Pride is giving ourselves the credit for something that God has accomplished. Pride is taking the glory that belongs to God alone and keeping it for ourselves. Pride is essentially self-worship. We accomplish in this world would not have been possible were it not for God enabling and sustaining us. "What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?(1CO4:7) We give God the glory, He alone deserves it. Not boast about personal things, but only the things of God. The true boasting in the Lord is actually boasting *of* the Lord. Boasting of what he has done for us, boasting of His great attributes, boasting of what He is still doing, and what He has promised to do(JER9:23-;1CO1:30-) *Never boast, except in the cross of Christ, through which we were crucified to the world.*(GAL6:14)

Pride takes many forms and shapes and encompasses the heart like the layers of an onion- when you pull off one layer, there is another underneath. Therefore, we need to have watch imaginable over our hearts and to cry most earnestly to the great searcher of hearts for His help. How do we extinguish pride in our lives? a sin we all wrestle with. Pride is like a fire that has to be put out, or it will devour us, and destroy our souls. We have to put an end to pride, think and live differently-Repent, confess to God, ask forgiveness. Let down your defenses, and ask the Lord to reveal the truth about your pride. Come before Him open, wanting to be empty. Bow down before His majesty. Submit to His direction. Humble yourself before awesome, mighty God. "*Oh God, forgive me for my arrogance and pride, for the way I have attacked and opposed others to defend myself. I have done this in defiance of you. Grant me the grace be clothed with Christ-like humility*"

### **Christian Character - Meekness, Humility**

*"Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he shall lift you up"*(JAM4:10) The humble man submits to the will of God. This is the foundation of all other acts of true humility. What is humility? It is the characteristic of being humble. It is Christ-like and as Christians, we put on Christ – ie., we strive to conform our lifestyle, our manners, our conversation, to be in the image of Jesus Christ and to live the kind of godly life that He lived. It has been described as "meekness", lowliness of mind", "the mind of Christ:, being like a child, etc. It brings greatness in God's kingdom.(MAT18:4), divine favor and promotion.(PHI2:9 -11), grace.(1PE5:5-7), promotes unity and love in the Church.(PHI2:2, EPH4:2 -3) prevents strife, competition, and vain glory.(PHI2:3) *To fear the Lord is to hate evil; pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech.*(PRO8:13)

In Jesus we can see that humility is a lowliness of spirit. Jesus said, *I am meek and lowly in heart.*(MAT11:29,30) Having come to earth as a man, Jesus humbled Himself and became obedient, even to the point of dying on the cross.(PHI2:8) This is the One who came "not to be ministered unto, but to minister"(MAR10:45) As lowly servant! *But I am among you as one who serves.*(LUK22:27) Jesus declares a "blessing"(happiness) on those who are meek.(MAT5:5) Meekness is one of the fruits of the Spirit - qualities that we must possess if we are led by the Spirit.(GAL5:22,23) Jesus was humble, and to fashion our lives after His life would be the best way to exhibit humility.(1PE4:11) Meekness is an attitude or quality of heart.(1PE3:4) whereby a person willingly accepts and submits without resistance to the will and desires of God. The meek person is not self-willed, ideas, wishes. A meek person cares about God's will being done!(NUM12:3,6,7) To be meek is to deny self. Humility is an attitude or quality of mind(ACT20:19) whereby a person holds low esteem or opinion of his own goodness and importance. Spiritually, one abases himself because he realizes his sinfulness and therefore he is willing to depend on God to meet His needs. It is the opposite of pride, haughtiness, and self-exaltation.

*And what does the Lord require of you? To do justly, to love mercy & to walk humbly with your God.*(MIC6:8)

Humility begins by giving God first place in our decisions, our action, our motivations. We must recognize our sinfulness.(LUK18:9-14) The humble man repents of his sins and mourns over his disobedience. A humble man has a "broken and a contrite heart"(PSA51:17) Pharisee trusted in himself that he was righteous, prayed with himself, thanking God he was better than other people. The Publican pleaded for mercy admitting he was a sinner. We can only by humbling ourselves like the publican and calling on God to forgive us. Let's take a look at what Jesus taught the disciples: The greatest in the kingdom is one who is humble like a little child.(MAT18:1-4) Being childish is being ignorant without truth, however, being as a child is being innocent and readily accepting of the truth with an open heart. Child is totally dependent on his parents. So humility leads us to humbly admit our own weakness, sinfulness and inability to obtain or accomplish by ourselves the things we need on God. Jesus explains some other ways in which we should strive to humble ourselves: Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which spitefully use you, and persecute you;(MAT5:38-48) Go the extra mile, turn the other cheek, give, forgive, treat all as your own. These are all humble acts. We must submit to God's commands.(MAT3:15) Therefore be subject to God, draw nigh to Him, cleanse your hands, purify your hearts, be afflicted, mourn, and weep. This is the true effect of humility in our lives, just as in Jesus' life.(1PE1:22) We must accept circumstances of life according to God's will. A meek and humble person will accept persecution, mistreatment, suffering, or hardship without rebelling against God and without doubting His wisdom. We should be willing to submit to suffering just as He did.(HEB12:2-6) God allows circumstances that chasten us in order to keep us humble.(DEU8:1-5,15) Paul's thorn in the flesh kept him from being overly exalted.(2CO12:7-10) Meekness requires that we too oppose sin and false doctrine in the lives of others.(GAL6:1) We must help people turn away from sin, and to do so is meek. Jesus was meek of spirit, yet he chased the moneychangers out of the temple.(MAT21:12) If we are truly meek toward God, this will lead us to be meek and humble toward other people. The humble man refuses to speak evil of his brother in the Lord. He leaves that judgment to God. The humble man can respond to and learn from criticism without defensiveness, whether it is deserved or not deserved. You can ask forgiveness when you are humble.(MAT5:23-24) You can talk with the right attitude when you are humble.(EPH 4:29) Esteeming others better than yourself, love and consideration for others.(PHI2:3,4) The humble man refuses to boast about what he is going to do. Rather, he says, *"If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that"*(JAM4:10-15) A humble person will be free from anger, irritation, bitterness, resentment etc. The humble man recognizes that his every failure to do good is sin and therefore depends entirely on the Lord. He does not take pride in his holiness but understands how far short he falls. Be clothed with humility, in order that you may be clothed with Jesus. It is Christ in you that shall fill you with humility.(1PE5:5,6) We must be meek and humble toward all men, we are also be subject and obedient toward rulers & authorities.(TIT3:1,2) *But let it be the inward beauty of the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight.*(1PE3:4;COL3:12-13)