

## The Evil of Pride

### Overview:

Pride is the first sin and is the underlying power of all sins. It contradicts the First Commandment, is very deceptive and is the enemy's greatest strategy. Pride enables mind control spirits.

Without faith, it is impossible to be saved, to please God or to receive from God.

Therefore, pride is used by the enemy to weaken, subvert and sabotage the believer's faith.

### A. What is Pride?

#### 1. Definition.

Pride is having or displaying excessive self-esteem.

Pride is an **internal** spiritual force, powered by demons.

#### 2. A Haughty Spirit.

Haughtiness is blatant and disdainful pride.

Haughtiness is **external**, looking down our noses at others without caring what they think.

#### 3. Pride is the first sin committed by Satan, Eve, Adam and every person.

##### a) Pride is death producing.

Pride replaces life with death for the first sin results in the need of each person to be born again.

##### b) The Five "I wills" of Pride.

Isa 14:12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! [how] art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!

Isa 14:13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:

Isa 14:14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High

Isa 14:15 Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

Pride in ourselves is often recognized by the decision, "**I will** do it", regardless of consequences or advice or the Word of God.

### B. Pride is the spiritual opposite of Love.

#### 1. Love, God's love (agape love), is as God is. It is giving and focused on others.

Pride is self-centered, taking not giving.

#### 2. God is love; therefore, acting in love is worshipping God.

Lucifer is our first example of pride; so acting proudly is bowing our knees to the father of lies, to the father of pride.

#### 3. Love is a decision to keep God's commandments.

Pride is a decision to do what we want (actually what the devil wants).

### C. Pride destroys Faith.

#### 1. Faith works by love. Love empowers faith.

#### 2. Pride replaces love, so pride destroys faith.

#### 3. Pride sows seeds of unforgiveness; unforgiveness blocks the answers to our prayers.

Pride creates offenses, which sows seeds of unforgiveness into the people being offended.

Since we reap what we sow, seeds of unforgiveness are sowed back into our lives as we act in pride. A prideful person is generally too proud to forgive or to ask forgiveness.

#### D. The Evil of Pride.

##### 1. Pride is an antichrist spirit.

###### a) Pride opposes the entire teaching of the Bible.

Mat 22:40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Mat 22:37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

Mat 22:38 This is the first and great commandment.

Mat 22:39 And the second [is] like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

Pride is loving ourselves, not God nor our neighbor.

###### b) Pride is esteeming ourselves greater than others.

Phi 2:3 [Let] nothing [be done] through strife or vainglory (*i.e., self-conceit*); but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

Phi 2:4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man **also** on the things of others.

##### 2. Pride is idolatry.

###### a) Pride is serving the god of this world.

Exo 20:2 I [am] the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

Exo 20:3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

John 14:21 He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me:

2Co 4:4 In whom the **god of this world** hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

Pride is not obeying the Word of God but is obeying the voice of the enemy and/or our carnal or selfish desires.

###### b) Pride is taking Jesus off the throne of our hearts and lives.

Pride is, at best, doing what we want; at worst, doing what satan wants.

Pride is doing things "our way". God wants us to do everything His way.

Psa 25:9 The meek will he guide in judgment: and **the meek will he teach his way.**

When we sin, we bow our knees to the devil; we take Jesus off the throne of our lives; and He remains off the throne until we confess the sins.

##### 3. Pride is removing the Crown of Life.

Jam 1:12 Blessed [is] the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the **crown of life**, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

1Jo 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.

Isa 28:3 **The crown of pride**, ....., shall be trodden under feet:

Psa 118:17 I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD.

But pride is focused **not on God's ways or works** but on our own ways and works. Therefore, pride is dying and not living.