**My Pride**

The dictionary defines **Pride** as a feeling or deep pleasure or satisfaction derived from one's own achievements or from qualities or possessions that one has that are admired by others.

What would you expect from a person full of pride?

Pride says:

* I am the center of my world
* I am Impatient. I want what I want when I want it
* I always want to be first. The Best. The Winner
* I always Pursue my agenda
* I tend to Talk over people because I think what I have to say is more important
* I always want the best for myself
* I always want everyone to do what I want to do
* I want to focus on how people like me
* I only want to talk about my successes. How I am better than you!
* I don’t do anything wrong and can justify all my actions (i.e. I don’t acknowledge sin)
* I always want to know how does this affect me
* I want all the attention on me

The King James Bible mentions "Pride" 93 times. If you were to look at each reference to pride you would find that it is never spoken of as being a positive attribute only as sin and evil.

Proverbs 11:2 - When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with the humble is wisdom

C.S. Lewis says, "There is no fault which makes a man more unpopular, and no fault which we are more unconscious of in ourselves. And the more we have it ourselves, the more we dislike it in others."

How true this is. This is a great check for pride. If you ever find yourself jealous or refusing to acknowledge someone else’s success it is probably because of your own selfish pride.

Pride is a big problem for kids during their teen years. During this age you are always competing with other kids for attention. Many times this is for the attention of that cute boy, pretty girl or to have the coolest friends.

You want the newest fashion, the best technology, the fastest car, and the most friends. Wanting nice things is not necessarily bad. It is when we start wanting these things at the expensive of others or to look better than others.

* What was the enemy’s sin that got him cast out of heaven? **It was Pride!**
* What caused the pride? **Because he wanted to be like God**.

**Isaiah 14:14** I (Satan) will ascend above the tops of the clouds;
I will make myself like the Most High.”(Isaiah 14:12–15 & Ezekiel 28:12–18)

**Ezekiel 28: 17**. Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So I threw you to the earth….

* What was Adams sin? He ate the forbidden fruit!
* Why did he eat the forbidden fruit? **Because he wanted to be like God**

**Genesis3:5** In fact, God knows that when you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.

Was the fruit in the garden a magical fruit or was it just placed there to give man a choice. Either submit to the King or desire to be your own King.

Many people may feel that it was Adams fault that we live in a broken world full of suffering and evil but each day we are presented with this same choice. **Will we submit to God or will we put ourselves first and follow our own desires?**

Why Did God destroy Sodom & Gomorrah? Look at what it says in Ezekiel

**Ezekiel 16:48-50** As I live, declares the Lord God, your sister Sodom and her daughters have not done as you and your daughters have done. Behold, this was the guilt of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters had pride, excess of food, and prosperous ease, but did not aid the poor and needy.  They were haughty and did an abomination before me. So I removed them, when I saw it.

Sounds a lot like our generation!!

When the enemy sinned, he turned his back on God and was cast down to the pit. In the same way we deserve nothing better than to be cast into the pit when we sin. The wages of sin is death. God couldn’t save his most prized angel and he can’t save us UNLESS we accept the death and resurrection of the perfect sacrifice that Jesus offers us.

So what does God says about Pride:

 **1st God hates pride**

Proverbs 8:13 - The fear of the Lord is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate.

**Pride is destructive**

Proverbs 16:18 - "Pride goes before destruction and a haughty (proud & arrogant) spirit before a fall."

Look at all the great nations that fell in their pride, Babylon, Rome, Hitler

**Pride comes between you and God’s Blessings**

Psalm 40:4 - Blessed is the man who makes the Lord his trust, who does not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after a lie!

Proverbs 29:23 - One's pride will bring him low, but he who is lowly in spirit will obtain honor.

The reason Pride is so bad is because it leads to so many other sins like prejudice, lying, divorce, hatred, murder, and even War.

Pride keeps us selfish and self-centered disabling us from helping, caring or encouraging others.

The biggest thing is Pride keeps us from humbling ourselves before God and letting him tack control of our lives. Many people will never be saved because of Pride.

**Side Note: Leader is mentioned only 6 times in the (KJV) Bible while Servant is mentioned 889 times!**

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So let’s take a moment to look at the other side, Humility or Humbleness?

The dictionary defines **Humble** as having or showing a modest or low estimate of one's own importance. Putting others before yourself

So What are the qualities of a humble person?

* Christ is the center of my world
* I am patient and willing to let others go first
* I acknowledge other peoples success
* I tend to listen to what others have to say
* I always want what’s best for everyone
* I am willing to put my agenda on hold to help someone else
* I give God the glory for all my success
* I am willing to serve others

The King James Bible mentions humbleness or being humble 64 times and each time it is considered a Virtue

II Chronicles 7:14 if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

Jesus set the example of humbleness

Philippians 2:5-8 says, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."

And the Bible tells us how to show humbleness

Philippians 2:3 - let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each view others better than himself.

Test: Look at the person next to you and say “You are better than me”. Was that hard? if so why?

Galatians 6:14 - But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

We also see a similar verse in the old testament from the prophet Jerimiah

Jeremiah 9:23-24 This is what the Lord says: “Let not the wise boast of their wisdom or the strong boast of their strength or the rich boast of their riches, but let the one who boasts boast about this: that they have the understanding to know me, that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight,” declares the lord.

So, if we want to boast about something it should be about our Lord and our relationship with him and if we do this we will find favor with God.

Peter tells use in [1 Peter 5:6](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/1-Peter-5-6/) - Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

How much better would it be to let God lift you up than for you to try and lift yourself? I cannot think of a single time where I was in awe of someone who was going on and on about how great they were but in contrast I am always amazed when I see someone do something great and pass the credit to others or bow a knee to God.

C.S. Lewis wrote “Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it is thinking of yourself less”

With that said, I have a confession, I struggle with Pride. I know it is wrong. I can stand here and tell you it is wrong but I still like the attention and sometimes I just can’t wait for God to lift me up. I feel I need to do it myself. I can only think that those around me see right through it and as the verses above stated, instead of pride lifting me up it just brings me down. So I continually ask for God to forgive me and to (gently) help me be humble.

So listen to this - If you accept Christ as your Lord and savior he will change your heart but sometimes those changes don’t come easy.

There was a time in my life where I was really good at shooting Pool and I became a bit cocky. So cocky my friends would make an excuse why they couldn’t go play and then go without me. At another time I became pretty good at Foosball. Again I became a bit cocky but this time I started having problems with my wrist to the point I couldn’t play anymore. God will correct you when you let pride into your life. Do not let pride ruin some talent God has blessed you with. Give him all the Credit and thank him daily for the blessing

The bible tells us that as the spirit of the lord works with in us we become more like Christ and reflect his glory ([2 Corinthians 3:18](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Corinthians%203:18&version=AMP)). (Find a mirror and look into it) Pride wants the world to see your glory the way you see yourself in the mirror. (Turn the mirror around and face toward a light) What we need to do is to turn the mirror around and reflect the glory of God on those around us. The light does not come from us but from God as I shine in the light of **HIS** glory. Like the moon that has no light of its own it only reflects the light of the sun. Our pride should be in reflecting Gods Glory

Learn this simple truth and you can go far in life. A true leader thinks of himself as a servant to the people he leads – Christ showed this kind of leadership when he placing his lordship aside to die for us. Jesus set the example for all of us just before he died.

John 13:12-14 (NIV) When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them. “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet.

Jesus demonstrated that even the greatest among them should have a servant’s heart.

Matthew 23:11-12 (NIV) The greatest among you will be your servant. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted

Example: Mother Teresa left home at the age of 18 to be a missionary, never to see her family again. She became a teacher in a school in India. The convent where she lived provided for all her needs while she was there. However, she chose to give up her life in that convent in order to live in the slums with the poorest of the poor on the streets of Calcutta, soon she started tending to the needs of the destitute and starving. She took care of people with whom no one else wanted to bother. She had no income and had to resort to begging for food and supplies herself. She stated:

"Our Lord wants me to be a free nun covered with the poverty of the cross. Today, I learned a good lesson. The poverty of the poor must be so hard for them. While looking for a home I walked and walked till my arms and legs ached. I thought how much they must ache in body and soul, looking for a home, food and health. Then, the comfort of Loreto [her former congregation] came to tempt me. Saying 'You have only to say the word and all that will be yours again,' Her Reply Of free choice, my God, and out of love for you, I desire to remain and do whatever be your Holy will in my regard."

So in closing which will you chose to be like: Christ in showing humbleness or the enemy in being proud? There is only one way to the cross and that is on your knees. For the bible tells us every knee WILL bow.