

Pride Sneaks In.....  
3-16-14

*Everyone proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD; though they join forces, none will go unpunished* - Proverbs 16:5

What is **Pride**? We may use "Pride" to describe satisfaction, as Paul does regarding his infirmities in 2 Corinthians 12:9-10. Paul said that Macedonians and Achaian were pleased to make contributions to the needs of the Saints. Such is not the pride of our discussion here.

The Pride we are considering as being hated by God is arrogant confidence that is identified with boastfulness. It is in effect to over esteem ourselves. God hates this pride (The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way And the perverse mouth I hate - Proverbs 8:13). The question is this: Could this describe YOU?

Pride Sneaks in to our lives five ways: admiring our accomplishments, confidence in false things, refusing to seek help, trusting in our own abilities, and refusing to admit our error.

Admiring our Accomplishments: Nebuchadnezzar made boasts about his accomplishments in Daniel 4:30-32. God punished him by removing his senses and causing him to live as an animal. In the same way, Christians can be guilty of boasting on Spiritual accomplishments. We boast of our assembly attendance, or abstinence from vices. Yet all such boasting is sinful (Galatians 6:14, Ephesians 2:9).

Confidence in False Things: It is easy to be guilty of trusting in worldly things. Jesus warned of this in Mark 10:24. Even trusting in time is called arrogance and boasting in James 4:14-16. We cannot trust in worldly things, or risk being guilty of sinful pride.

Refusing to Seek Help: Sometimes pride stops us from asking for prayers when they are needed, or from confessing our sins. James commands us to do both in James 5:14-16.

Trusting Our Ability: Sometimes we think we are strong enough of ourselves to resist temptation. Then why does Scripture constantly warn us to flee from it? (1 Corinthians 6:18,10:14). Obviously, we are not as strong as we think. We esteem ourselves as singularly able to remain spiritual, and yet why then did Jesus die to build the church (Hebrews 10:23-26)?

Refusing to Admit Error: Finally, it is easy to refuse to admit we are wrong because of pride. Sometimes we play the Blame Game, invented by our ancestor Adam. Sometimes we simply deny that we did anything wrong. *"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us"* 1 John 1:8.

Dealing with Pride means putting on Christ. A great example of this is in Philippians 2:5, which tells us to put on the mind of Christ. There we are told that He made Himself of no reputation, He took the form of a servant, and ultimately humbled Himself to death. If we are to deal with Pride, we must see that we can only be saved if we kill pride. *"God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."* 1 Peter 5:5b