

## The Children of Pride 08-22-21

Jesus once said that we can know wisdom by all of her children (Luke 7:35). It is interesting to consider that this implies that there are multiple “fruits” or consequences of a virtue such as wisdom that we can see that will tell us when someone is behaving wisely. Is the same true of a vice? Paul states the following in 1 Timothy 6:3-4

*If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness, 4 he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions,*

Here Paul warns against the danger of pride. Pride could be defined as “A feeling of deep pleasure or satisfaction derived from one’s own achievements, the achievements of those with whom one is closely associated, or from qualities or possessions that are widely admired”. Pride is self-exaltation, or praising ourselves. It is also found in arrogance or haughtiness. It is the opposite of humility (Philippians 2:3-8).

Scriptures reveal that God has a particular disdain for pride. *Everyone proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD* (Proverbs 16:5a); *the one who has a haughty look and a proud heart, him I will not endure* (Psalms 101:5b); *pride and arrogance and the evil way and the perverse mouth I hate* (Proverbs 8:13b). Are you a proud person? Is pride a problem in your life? You might see yourself as someone who can act with humility, who works at not boasting, but perhaps the issue is not that pride is clearly seen in your life, but the children of pride are.

Perhaps the firstborn of pride in this list is envy. Consider how envy manifested itself in Genesis 4:3-8. James warned us that envy and self-seeking lie against the truth in James 3:14. Sometimes we are envious but refuse to acknowledge it.

Pride’s favorite child is strife. We say favorite because it is one of the most common ways pride is manifested. *By pride comes nothing but strife* (Proverbs 13:10a); *He who is of a proud heart stirs up strife* (Proverbs 28:25a).

Pride has a spoiled child named ingratitude. It is revealed by its lack of looking for God. Blasphemous ingratitude is mentioned in Psalm 10:4 when it says *the wicked in his proud countenance does not seek God; God is in none of his thoughts*. Consider the arrogance of Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 4:30-32 as a proud man.

Evil suspicions is the ugly child of pride ( 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, James 4:13-16). This is when we see everything and everyone as being out to get us; we suspect them of the worst, when we ought to hope and believe the best. Evil suspicion is seen in the paranoia of King Saul. His pride led him to believe everyone was out to get him.

Pride has a loud child in useless wrangling. The need to argue everything is an evidence of pride per Psalm 94:4 (*They utter speech, and speak insolent things; All the workers of iniquity boast in themselves*). These opinions that lead to division are seen in the divisive man of Titus 3:9-10.

It is not always easy to see that we have a problem with pride. But when we see that the children of pride rule our life, we need to understand that we have a pride problem. We need to treat the condition, not the symptom.