

God Is Opposed To The Proud

Text : **James 4: 4-10 ; Deuteronomy 8: 10-19**

A. Poll the audience by show of hands :

1. How many of you have the ability to raise your right hand ?
2. How many want to have a relationship with God ?
3. How many are satisfied that your relationship with God close enough ?
4. How many of you want a closer relationship with God ?
5. How would be satisfied to be at odds with God ? **God is at war with some.**

B. Our primary text for this lesson explains that God is at war with proud people.

1. **James 4: 6** –“**God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.**”
2. “**opposed**” { *antitassō* } 1. To arrange in battle 2. Resist
3. The Apostle Peter gives the same warning :
I Pet. 5: 5 – **God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.**

C. What is pride ?

1. .com definition :
 - a. **Positive** : pleasure and satisfaction that one gains from achievements, qualities or possessions.
 - b. **Negative** : a foolishly and irrationally corrupt sense of one's personal value, status or accomplishments, used synonymously with hubris
2. KJV Dictionary :
Inordinate self-esteem; an unreasonable conceit of one's own superiority in talents, beauty, wealth, accomplishments, rank or elevation in office, which manifests itself in lofty airs, distance, reserve, and often in contempt of others.
3. Personal definition :
 - a. *Being preoccupation with one's self, loving self above others and / or above God. Being concerned about one's own interest above the interest of others.*
 - b. It is the opposite of that which the Christian must strive to be.
Phil. 2: 2-4 – **Make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. 3 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; 4 do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.**

D. The goal of this lesson is to observe three things :

1. God's attitude toward pride
2. Some sources of pride
3. A few of the consequences of pride

I. God's attitude toward pride.

A. Pride is the mother of all sins.

** You can't spell pride or sin either one without an "I" in the middle.*

1. Pride was the sin that caused Lucifer and his angels to be cast down.

Isa. 14: 12-15 – How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning!
How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations!
13 For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will
exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of
the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; **14** I will ascend
above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.'

Cf- Ez. 28: 14-17

2. Pride motivated the fall of man.

Gen. 3: 5-6 – For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened,
and you will be like God, knowing good and evil. **6** When the woman saw
that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and
that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and
ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.

3. Pride is involved in every sin ... lust, deceit, malice, theft, greed, unbelief, etc.

B. God hates pride.

1. **Prov. 16: 5** – Everyone who is proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord;
Assuredly, he will not be unpunished.
2. Those who seek to be highly esteemed in men's eyes are detested by God.
Luke 16: 15 – And He said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves in the sight
of men, but God knows your hearts; for that which is highly esteemed
among men is detestable in the sight of God."

C. Christians should also hate pride.

1. **Prov. 8: 13** – The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; pride and arrogance
and the evil way and the perverted mouth, I hate.
2. Pride is all about self, so Christianity is the antonym of pride.
Luke 9: 23-25 – And He was saying to *them* all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me,
he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.
24 For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses
his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it. **25** For what is a
man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses or forfeits himself?

 - a. Christianity is to deny self and become an advocate for God.
Phil. 1.21 – For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.
 - b. Christianity is separate from the earth's value system. *It is not about prosperity.*
 - c. What is my definition of success ? *Do I have enough faith to trust God ?*

II. What are some of the sources of pride ? Let's look at six kinds.

A. "Gold-Pride" This is the self-esteem one feels from his financial success.

1. Many feel superior when they have more earthly possessions.
2. Some manage better and some work harder, but it is God who enables prosperity.

Deut. 8: 17-18 – Otherwise, you may say in your heart, 'My power and the strength of my hand made me this wealth.' **18** But you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who is giving you power to make wealth.

B. "Beauty-Pride" Attractive people feel special because of their appearance.

1. Who decides which gene-pool you will swim out of ?
2. Who decides your race or if you will be beautiful, brown-eyed, tall, athletic?
3. One can make the best of what he has, but who can change what he is?

Luke 12: 25 – And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life's span?

C. "Intellectual-Pride" Those who are brighter than average feel superior to others.

1. Basic intelligence is inherited, not developed, but the basics must be developed.
2. Family circumstances have a great effect on intellectual development.
3. Those with greater ability have greater responsibility.

Luke 12: 48b – From everyone who has been given much, much will be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more.

D. "Performance-Pride" Athletes/ craftsmen often boast about physical abilities.

1. Skillful hands is a gift from God.

Exod. 35: 31 – The LORD has called... **31** And He has filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding and in knowledge and in all craftsmanship;

2. God gives some the ability to develop our skills and others are uncoordinated so each of us must learn to use the tools in his own box.

E. "Power-Pride" Authority puffs up many who are in positions of leadership.

1. A true leaders is one who serves others.

Mark 9: 34-35 – ... for on the way they had discussed with one another which of *them was the greatest*. **35** Sitting down, He called the twelve and said to them, "If anyone wants to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all.

2. All authority is given by God, the sovereign ruler of all.

a. **Rom 13: 1**... For there is no authority except from God, ... are established by God.

b. **Rom. 13: 4** ... Do what is good ... for it is a minister of God to you for good.

F. “Position-Pride” Social status tends to lift one up in his own eyes.

1. Generally, no one thinks as highly of them as they think of themselves.
2. **Rom. 12: 3** – For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment,

G. Rich or poor, beautiful or not, we are all what God intended for us to be.**III. The proverbs tell us a few of the consequences of sin.****A. Pride puts one in conflict with God.**

1. **I Pet. 5: 5** – God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.
2. **Prov. 16: 5** – Everyone who is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD;

B. Pride makes one ineligible for God’s grace. (*No humility = No grace*)

1. **James 4: 6** – But He gives a greater grace. Therefore *it* says, “God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”
2. What do we need MOST ? God’s grace because it is the means of salvation.

C. Pride brings shame and disgrace.

1. How many times have we become offended and said things we regret.
2. **Prov. 11: 2** – When pride comes, then comes dishonor, but with the humble is wisdom

D. Pride fosters contention and disharmony.

1. Pride causes one to think himself right and lean on his own understand.
Prov. 3: 5 – Trust in the Lord with all your heart
And do not lean on your own understanding.
2. **Prov. 13: 10** – By pride comes nothing but strife, But with the well-advised is wisdom.

E. Pride leads to destruction (= *complete ruin*) and failure.

1. **Prov. 16: 18** – Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before stumbling.
2. History has proven this many times over.
 - a. **Isa. 14: 12 , Rev. 12: 3-9** ... Pride brought down the devil and his angels.
 - b. **Gen. 3:5-6** ... Eve was desirous of being as wise as God.
 - c. **I Sam. 9-17** ... Saul’s life was destroyed because of his jealousy and PRIDE
 - d. **II King 20** ... King Hezekiah receives an envoy from ambassadors of Babylon
 - e. **Esther** ... The whole book is focused on the pride of Haman the Agagite.
 - f. **Dan 4 & 5** ... King Nebuchadnezzar boasts about his great kingdom – eats grass

- g. **Luke 23: 22: 24** ... Disciples argued about who was the greatest in the kingdom
- h. **Acts 12: 20-23** ... Herod was filled with pride when flattered by Tyre & Sidon.
- i. **II Cor. 12: 7** ... The Apostle Paul was given a thorn in the flesh to prevent pride.

F. Considering that pride is so often the focus of the bible narrative, we understand that God views it as a sin that is important for us avoid.

CONCLUSION :

A. In this very brief study, we have observed that :

1. God hates pride and so should we.
Prov. 16: 5 – Everyone who is proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord; Assuredly, he will not be unpunished.
2. There are many sources of pride, but none of them justify it.
I Cor. 4: 7 – For who regards you as superior? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?
3. Pride engenders very severe negative consequences.
James 4: 6 – “God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”
 - a. Pride puts one at war with God.
 - b. It limits one’s ability to receive saving grace.

B. Pride limits all that is needed to combat it.

1. Pride is faith in and value for self more than in and for God.
2. Faith in self limits one’s tendency to pray.
3. Pride causes one to forsake the assembly and neglect the fellowship of believers.

C. Pride limits what many people will do for God.

1. If someone is more capable than me, let them do it.
2. **Mark 12: 42** ... The widow did not withhold her mites because the rich man gave.

D. Pride causes people NOT to humble themselves before the Lord. (*To not submit*)

James 4: 10 – Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.

INVITATION :

Lesson Text :**James 4: 4-10**

4 You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. **5** Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose: "He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us"? **6** But He gives a greater grace. Therefore *it* says, **"God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble."** Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. **8** Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. **9** Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom. **10** Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.

Deuteronomy 8: 10-19

10 When you have eaten and are satisfied, you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land which He has given you.

11 Beware that you do not forget the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments and His ordinances and His statutes which I am commanding you today; **12** otherwise, when you have eaten and are satisfied, and have built good houses and lived *in them*, **13** and when your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and gold multiply, and all that you have multiplies, **14** then your heart will become proud and you will forget the LORD your God who brought you out from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. **15** He led you through the great and terrible wilderness, *with its* fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground where there was no water; He brought water for you out of the rock of flint. **16** In the wilderness He fed you manna which your fathers did not know, that He might humble you and that He might test you, to do good for you in the end. **17** Otherwise, you may say in your heart, 'My power and the strength of my hand made me this wealth.' **18** **But you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who is giving you power to make wealth,** that He may confirm His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as *it is* this day. **19** It shall come about if you ever forget the LORD your God and go after other gods and serve them and worship them, I testify against you today that you will surely perish.