

Pride

A man's pride will bring him low, but a humble spirit will obtain honor. Prov.29:23

Introduction

"I am nothing; truth is everything."

What would you be like if you believed that?

Why are these questions as important as they are irritating?

The fear of the Lord is to hate evil; pride, arrogance and the evil way I hate. (8:13)

A man's pride will bring him low (29:23)

When pride comes, then comes dishonor, but with the humble is wisdom. (11:2)

A few tests to see if pride is working in your heart: others, self, God

Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before stumbling. (16:18)

1. **What** is pride?

It is a posture before God. Is your disposition congruent with God's nature?

"The wicked, in the haughtiness of his countenance, does not seek Him. All his thoughts are, 'There is no God.'" (Ps. 10:4)

The proud in heart are an abomination to the Lord. (16:5)

Son of man, say to the leader of Tyre, "Thus says the Lord God, because your heart is lifted up and you have said, I am God, I sit in the seat of gods, in the heart of the seas," yet you are a man and not God, you make your heart like the heart of God. (Ez.28:2)

Deception: Obadiah 3

The arrogance of your heart has deceived you, you live in the clefts of the rocks, in the loftiness of your dwelling place, who say in your heart, "Who will bring me down to earth?"

Arrogance: Jeremiah 49:16

As for the error of you, the arrogance of your heart has deceived you, O you who live in the clefts of the rock, who occupy the height of the hill. Though you make your nest as high as an eagle's, I will bring you down from there," declares the Lord. (because He will share his glory with no other)

Invincibility: 2 Chron.26:16

But when Uzziah became strong, his heart was so proud that he acted corruptly, and he was unfaithful to the Lord his God, for he entered the temple of the Lord to burn incense on the altar of incense. (an act reserved only for priests)

2. **Why** do we have it?

3. **How** do we overcome it?

A. Admit that the root of surface sins is pride. How is self-concern and self-promotion motivating you?

Lying: I'll look bad if the truth be known

Lust: I'm worthy of pleasure

Anger: How dare you do that to me!

Laziness: I have a right to use time as I see fit

Cheating: I'm a special case

Unapologetic: I don't fail or make mistakes

Boasting: I need to be recognized

Greed: I deserve this

Gossip: I'm important because I know secrets

Judgmental: I'm always right.

Lawlessness: I'm an exception to the rule

Shyness: I'm unwilling to be known

Pretentiousness: My reputation is paramount

Unapproachable: I'm too important for you

B. Look beneath the civil surface of niceness we all put on and discover attitudes toward others which pride produces:
It is not good to eat much honey, nor is it glory to search out one's own glory. (25:27)

C. Seek out the glory of the most humble person in the world.

Come unto Me all who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am humble and gentle in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. (Matt.11:28)