



PRIDE AND HUMILITY

11:2; 13:10; 15:25, 33; 16:5; 18:12; 21:4; 25:6-7;
28:26; 29:23

These **proverbs** deal with the subject of **pride** and **humility**. They deal with the danger and shame of "**pride**" and the grace and beauty of "**humility**."

"**Pride**" is "*the mindset of self, the preoccupation with self, the service of self, a focus on self.*" It is "*self-importance, self-centeredness, self-admiration, self-exaltation, self-will, self-righteousness, and self-gratification.*" "**Pride**" is at the heart of all sins, and within the sin of "**pride**" are innumerable sins. "**Pride**" heads the list of deadly sins [Proverbs 6:16-19], and also heads the list of the things that make for "*perilous times*" [II Timothy 3:2], and is a contributing cause of "*perilous times*" Such things as "*bitterness*" "*wrath*" "*anger*" "*envy*" and "*strife*" feed off of "**pride**" It is the sin that transformed *Lucifer* into *Satan* [Isaiah 14:12-14], and it was the sin of "**pride**" which first led *Eve* to eat of the forbidden fruit. "**Pride**" is **blinding** and **deceiving** [Obadiah 3], it **hardens** the heart [Daniel 5:20], and is a **hindrance** to seeking God [Psalm 10:4; Hosea 7:10], and it is forbidden throughout the Word of God [I Samuel 2:3; Romans 12:3]. "**Pride**" takes all manner of shapes, and has various guises. There is the "**pride**" of **birth** and **rank**, of **wealth**, of **respectability**, of **learning**, of **superiority**, of **success**, of **self-reliance**, and of **ability**. But no matter what the shape or guise, it is **sin**, it is absolutely **preposterous**, and **outrageous!** "**Pride**" will have **wrong motives**, causing one to do things for self-serving reasons. "**Pride**" will be focused upon one's own feelings and thoughts, and may be consumed with what others think. "**Pride**" desires recognition, praise, notoriety, and esteem. "**Pride**" will have attention getting tactics. "**Pride**" will show little patience with the faults of others. "**Pride**" has great difficulty in having or maintaining close relationships. "**Pride**" is **ungrateful**. The question we need to ask ourselves is not whether or not "**pride**" exists in our lives, but where and to what extent.

"**Humility**" is not merely a feeling of insignificance, for "**humility**" is more than a feeling, it is an **act**, "*the emptying of self*" [Matthew 16:24; Luke 14:26; Romans 8:13; Galatians 5:24]. The command "*Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God*" [I Peter 5:6] IS A COMMAND TO EMPTY SELF! "**Humility**" this **emptying of self** is the absolute opposite of, and diametrically opposed to "**pride**" which is "*the mindset of self*" the "*preoccupation of self*" the "*service of self*" It is diametrically opposed to "*self-importance*" to "*self-centeredness*" to "*self-admiration*" to "*self-exaltation*" to "*self-will*" and "*self-righteousness*" The secret of all true **service** to the Lord, and the basis of all true **obedience** is "**humility**" It is the soul of **contentment** and leads to **gratefulness** and **praise!** "**Humility**" will be **accepting** of God's providence and will! IT IS THE ONE CHARACTER QUALITY THAT WILL ENABLE US TO BE ALL THAT GOD CALLS US TO BE!

Christ is our example of "**humility**" [Matthew 11:29; Philippians 2:5-8]. Notice the words of *Christ* as he speaks of His relation to the *Father*.

"The Son can do nothing of Himself" [John 5:19].

“I can of mine own self do nothing.....I seek not mine own will, but the will of Him that sent Me” [John 5:30].

“I receive not glory from men” [John 5:41].

“I am not come to do mine own will” [John 6:38].

“I am not come of Myself” [John 7:28].

“I do nothing of Myself” [John 8:28].

“I seek not mine own glory” [John 8:50].

The “*not I*” in which *Paul* expresses his relation to *Christ* [Galatians 2:20], is the very spirit of what *Christ* says of His relation to the *Father*. “*Humility*” toward God is the result of the vivid realization of the greatness of God, and the vivid realization of one’s own sin [Genesis 32:10; II Samuel 7:18-21; Job 42:5-6]. “*Humility*” toward man, like “*humility*” toward God, is the “*not I*” spirit [Romans 12:10; 15:1; Ephesians 3:8; 4:2-3; Philippians 2:3-4]. A wonderful example of such “*humility*” is found in *David* who did not deserve the reproaches of his wife *Michal*, but when he heard them, instead of being moved with indignation, he meekly replied [II Samuel 6:22]. “*Humility*” is pleasing to God, and He therefore “*humbles*” His people [Deuteronomy 8:2, 16].

“When pride cometh then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom” [11:2].

“*Pride*” being the native principle of fallen man will appear, will rear its ugly head. “*When pride cometh*” in whatever shape, form, or guise, “*then cometh shame*” (disgrace, dishonor, and degradation). WHEREVER THERE IS PRIDE THERE IS DISGRACEFUL AND DISHONORING BEHAVIOR! On the other hand, “*with the lowly* (those who have the spirit of humility) *there is wisdom*” because such are in a proper place before God and as a result have communion with the God of all wisdom!

“Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom” [13:10].

“*Contention*” is here traced to the source of “*pride*” Though “*contentions*” can come by other things, “*pride*” is the chief source, and there are no “*contentions*” without it! “*Pride*” is not only the source of many “*contentions*” it keeps them alive! The contrast is “*with the well advised is wisdom*” implying that a person of “*humility*” is willing to learn and to receive advice and instruction, will consult with God and be wise, and avoid many “*contentions*” DO NOT ALLOW THE MINDSET OF SELF TO GET IN THE WAY OF THE COUNSEL OF GOD!

“The LORD will destroy (demolish, spoil, ruin, wreck, and devastate) the house of the proud: but He will establish (set up and confirm) the border of the widow” [15:25].

“*Pride*” (the mindset of self) is destructive. The preoccupation with self, the service of self, self-importance, self-centeredness, self-admiration, self-exaltation, and self-will, will bring **ruin** and **devastation!** Had not *Paul* been kept down by a humbling trial, his honor would have been his ruin [II Corinthians 12:7-9].

“The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom: and before honor is humility” [15:33].

“The fear of the LORD” which is reverence to God (which is a fruit of, and a part of humility) leads to the instruction that gives heavenly “wisdom” There is a definite order established here, HUMILITY COMES BEFORE HONOR [Job 22:29; Luke 9:46-48].

“Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD: though hand join in hand, he shall not be unpunished” [16:5].

The phrase “proud in heart” has reference to inward “pride” (the thoughts of pride), and all such “pride” in spite of outward appearances “is an abomination to the LORD” Likewise, a “proud look” [6:17], the outward manifestation of pride is also an “abomination”

“Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, and before honor is humility” [18:12].

This truth was stated in 15:33; 16:18, and the repetition is intended to deepen our sense of their importance.

“An high look, and a proud heart, and the plowing of the wicked is sin” [21:4].

The “high look” is something that can be seen of others, and the “proud heart” is something that God sees, and just as the “wicked” sin in all that they do, so “pride” rather inward or outward, whether in secret, or in public is sin!

“Put not forth thyself in the presence of the king, and stand not in the place of great men: For better it is that it be said unto thee, Come up hither; than that thou shouldest be put lower in the presence of the prince whom thine eyes have seen” [25:6-7].

Christ applies this proverb in Luke 14:8-11. The teaching being, that it is wise for one to behave themselves lowly and reverently toward superiors. The lesson is **deny thyself and do not set the heart upon preferment!**

“He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered” [28:26].

Self trust and reliance is one of the many forms of “pride” [Hosea 10:13]. The one who walks “wisely” is the one that is not so proud to trust himself, but humble enough to trust the Lord.

“A man’s pride shall bring him low: but honor shall uphold the humble in spirit” [29:23].

“Pride” though it assumes superiority, and dominance, is the road to degradation. An individual’s “pride” will bring him low because it subjects him to all the foolish thoughts and

actions of *“pride”* it will bring ruin and degradation because of all the sins that it leads to. On the contrary there is *“honor”* (privilege) to the *“humble”*