

Bible Studies

What is Pride?

"God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." 1 Peter 5v5, James 4v6, Proverbs 3v34

Most of us are aware of the above verse. We do not like to think that we may suffer from pride or put ourselves in opposition to God. But pride is one of those sins that hides itself deep within us only to emerge at the most unexpected times and unexpected places. We normally associate pride as a sin of the rich, powerful and famous.

Is it exclusively their domain?

How would you define pride?

Read Proverbs 11v2, 13v10, 16v18, 29v23, 18v12

The LORD detests all the proud of heart. Be sure of this: They will not go unpunished. Proverbs 16:5

Some Examples:



Uzziah Read 2 Chronicles 26v16-19

How did Uzziah's pride manifest itself?

What was Uzziah's Problem?

To associate King Uzziah's pride with his entrance to the temple is to miss the point. It was the crowning act of a process. Uzziah started his reign at the age of 16 reliant on God. As the years passed, he became more powerful and no longer needed God's help so obviously. He started to rely on his own abilities and his attitude towards God changed. It was this that led to such a reckless act and such dramatic punishment.

Can you see how this kind of process could lead a Christian into pride?



Hezekiah Read 2 Chronicles 32v24-26

How does the Bible describe Hezekiah's pride?

The full account of this incident is given in 2 Kings 20 and Isaiah 38. The sign was that King Hezekiah would be healed. At this time Hezekiah clearly humbled himself. But the sign also proclaimed that he would live a further 15 years, during these years Hezekiah hardened his heart to the Lord. His pride made him unresponsive to God.

Based on this why do you think God hates pride so much?



Nebuchadnezzar Read Daniel 4v28-32

What was Nebuchadnezzar's failing.

It has often been said the main problem with Nebuchadnezzar's speech was the frequent use of the word 'My'. Babylon was a great city and Nebuchadnezzar was a great king. He failed to see God in his success, and God, even though he was a pagan king, punished him with insanity, until he should recognise God's sovereignty.

Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and exalt and glorify the King of heaven, because everything he does is right and all his ways are just. And those who walk in pride he is able to humble. Daniel 4:37

Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil. Proverbs 3:7

Strong self sufficiency is one factor that makes it so hard for the rich to enter the kingdom. *In his pride the wicked does not seek him; in all his thoughts there is no room for God. Psalms 10:4*

What should our response be when we are successful? Isaiah 26:12

The Bible says, *"Let him who boasts boast in the Lord."* 2 Cor 10:17. We must be careful that when God gives us the privilege of doing something for Him, we don't try in any way to take the credit ourselves. Isaiah 42:8



Naaman Read 2 kings 5v9-14

Naaman had leprosy and went to Elijah to be healed.

What stopped Naaman from obeying Elijah's command?

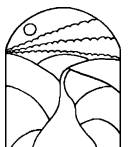
Could it really be that Naaman would rather be sick than do something beneath him? Could it be that Elijah deliberately chose something he knew would offend Naaman? You might say it offended Naaman's pride.

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**What might God call you to do that offends your pride?
How would you respond?**

An example of this is Salvation, God chose a method of Salvation that requires us to rely exclusively on Him and not ourselves. It is humbling to kneel at the Cross.

*Uzziah's pride led him to become unfaithful. Hezekiah's pride led him to become ungrateful
Nebuchadnezzar's pride led him to ignore God. Naaman's pride nearly stopped him receiving from God.*

What did pride do in these passages?

Obediah v3

Deuteronomy 8v14

Four Types of Pride.

1

Pride is > Thinking yourself better than other people.

This is the pride that makes self out to be the greatest.

This is the pride that says this person or job is beneath me.

Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. Romans 12:16

This pride might show itself by always looking for faults in others.

2

Pride is > Thinking yourself Self-sufficient.

It says; I don't need God, I can make it by myself. I did it my way!

It refuses to humbly obey God. It says I know better than other / God.

Is refusing to accept help that you need from someone else a kind of pride?

3

Pride is > Exalting Self

Claiming the Glory for what I achieved through my skill & ability.

It takes for granted the things that God freely gives.

It forgets that all we have is from Him anyway, Yes even our abilities.

What did Paul say about this? 1 Corinthians 4v7

4

Pride is > Wanting to look good in front of other people.

Wanting them to praise us and acknowledge us. Wanting them to see how good we are. Or alternatively not wanting to look inferior!

Does it matter what others think of us?

What was Jesus attitude to this? Matthew 6v2-4

Pride is; arrogance, conceit, self-sufficiency, self centredness, self exaltation.

Pride is also what we use to protect ourselves, even in a lowly position. Someone in need, it might not take a gift, because it offends them, "I've still got my pride."

What would James say about this? James 1v9-10

What is the opposite of pride?

The humble are those who recognize their insufficiency, are conscious of their created status and absolute dependence upon Almighty God, and are willing to receive from Him and Him alone all that is necessary for their salvation. Tasker

Is pride always wrong?

Paul took pride in his Churches, 2 Cor 7v4, I am intensely proud of this Church. Clearly there are some things we should be proud of, Our kids, Our parents. Prov 17:6

When does this pride become a sin?

Is self abasement the same as humility?

Is it wrong to acknowledge when you have done well?

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you. Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. Romans 12:3

Most of us should take this verse as a rebuke, not because we think too highly of ourselves, but because we think too lowly of ourselves.

Pride is one of those thing that effectively stops God from moving in our lives. That is why God hates it!

Our Response:

Be on the watch for pride in yours life.
Repent of proud attitudes.