

Extinguishing Pride in Your Life

➤ = next PowerPoint

➤ Intro:

- **lesson:** talk about an area we all probably struggle with
 - careful not to be carried away by this sin
 - work every day to be humble and sincere
- **pride may be the one sin that creates the most trouble in people, costs them their souls**
 - **Pr. 16:6** everyone who is proud is an **abomination** to the Lord, and will be **punished**
 - **how many sins are spoken of in this way?**
 - **Pr. 16:18** pride goes **before destruction**, and a haughty spirit **before stumbling**
 - **Pr. 16:19** it's **better to be humble in spirit with the lowly**, than to **divide the spoil with the proud**
- **Pr. 6:16-19** **seven things God hates** – relate to pride (haughty)
 - There are six things which the LORD hates,
 - Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him:
 - Haughty** eyes, a lying tongue,
 - And hands that shed innocent blood,
 - A heart that devises wicked plans,
 - Feet that run rapidly to evil,
 - A false witness who utters lies,
 - And one who spreads strife among brothers.
- **1 Jn. 2:15-16** **pride is one of the three major areas of sin** – lust of flesh, lust of eyes, boastful pride of life
 - **but it seems to be the area Christians most tolerate** and accept in their lives, and in other's lives
 - **seldom will be tolerate lust of the flesh, but often do we excuse pride** and the result behavior
- **It's imperative that we deal with pride in our lives, or else we'll be lost!**

➤ **Definitions:**

- **pride:** 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. (King James Dictionary)

- **proud:** Having inordinate self-esteem; possessing a high or unreasonable conceit of one's own excellence, either of body or mind. . . . He conceives that any thing excellent or valuable, in which he has a share, or to which he stands related, contributes to his own importance, and this conception exalts his opinion of himself. (King James Dictionary)

➤ - **proud:** signifies "showing oneself above others, preeminent" it is always used in Scripture in the bad sense of "arrogant, disdainful, proud," (Vine's)

➤ - **alazoneia (al-ad-zon-i'-a):**

- empty, braggart talk

- an insolent and empty assurance, which trusts in its own power and resources and shamefully despises and violates divine laws and human rights

- an impious and empty presumption which trusts in the stability of earthy things (The New Testament Greek Lexicon)

- **appears in 2 NT verses**

- **Ja. 4:16** "arrogance" (NASB) "boastings" (KJV) – sin

- **1 Jn. 2:16** "boastful pride" (NASB) "pride" (KJV) – sin

➤ - **2 Tim. 3:1-2a** evil men are boastful and arrogant

- **2 Tim. 3:2-5** description of these evil people – description of prideful people

- when we are prideful, boastful, and arrogant we are in the depths of sin

- these definitions and Scriptures gives us an idea of the ugliness and hurtfulness of the sin of pride, and why God hates it

- **Signs of a proud heart** – not have to have all signs, just one – **test and examine yourselves**
 - a proud person **thinks more highly of himself than he should**
 - **Rom. 12:3** not to think more highly of ourselves than he ought; but to think so as to have sound judgment
- - a proud person **brags and is conceited** (parades himself about, KJ)
 - **brag**: boastful, arrogant speech
 - **conceited**: an excessively favorable opinion of one's own ability, importance, wit, etc. (Dictionary.com)
 - **2 Tim. 3:4** evil men are conceited
 - **1 Cor. 13:14** love does not boast
- - a proud person is **prejudice toward others**
 - **illus.: Peter in Antioch**, ate with Gentiles until Jews came from James, then he withdrew himself and held himself aloof – **pride**
 - **Ja. 2:9** if we show partiality, we are committing sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors
- - a proud person **doesn't want to associate with lowly people**
 - **illus.:** friend, moved to be with people in his socioeconomic peer group, didn't want to be with lowly Christians anymore, wanted to be with the affluent so he would be comfortable with his riches, fell away from the Lord
 - **Rom. 12:16** associate with the lowly
 - **thought questions:**
 - **Are you one of the few people in life who treats everyone the same?**
 - **Do you associate with people based on their character** rather than their social standing?
 - **Do you think it's a compliment when people discredit you for being friends with the nobodies of the world?**
 - **Do you think it's a compliment when someone says you're a nobody?**

- - a proud person is **self-righteous: forgives himself but not others**
 - **parable.: unforgiving person, who expects others to forgive him with any qualms (Matt. 18:21-35)**
 - **kingdom of heaven is compared a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves**
 - **one who owed 10k talents** was brought to him (\$3b today, conservatively)
 - **since he didn't have the means to repay, his lord commanded him to be sold**, along with his wife and children and all that he had, and repayment to be made
 - **slave fell to the ground and prostrated himself** before him, saying, 'Have patience with me and I will repay you everything.'
 - **the lord of that slave felt compassion and released him and forgave him the debt**
 - **the slave went out and found a fellow slave who owed him 100 denarii** (\$8k today, conservatively)
 - **seized him, choke him**, saying, 'Pay back what you owe.'
 - **fellow slave fell to the ground and began to plead** with him, saying, 'Have patience with me and I will repay you.'
 - **forgiven slave was unwilling, threw his fellow slave into prison until he should pay back** what was owed
 - **other slaves reported to the lord what happened**
 - **lord summoned the forgiven slave**, and said, 'You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you?'
 - **lord, moved with anger, handed the slave over to the torturers until he should repay** all that was owed him
 - **Jesus: "My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart."**
 - **Matt. 5:7** blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy
 - **Ja. 2:13** judgment will be merciless to one who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment
 - **Col. 3:13** bearing with one another, forgiving each other as the Lord forgave us
- - a proud person is **ungrateful and unthankful**: – not feel he has a reason to be thankful to anyone but himself, since he feels all sufficient to do all thinks for himself
 - **2 Tim. 3:2** evil men are ungrateful (unthankful, KJ)
 - **Col. 3:15** Christians are thankful – **demonstrated in obedience to God, and behavior toward all men**
- - a proud person **believes that outcomes are dependant upon himself, more than God or anyone else**
 - **trusts in himself, and takes credit** for his blessings, rather than giving credit to God
- - a proud person is **self-centered rather than God-centered** – not devoted to personal prayer and Bible study
 - **when he prays**, prays a lot about self, but little for others
 - **does little or no personal work** – spends resources on himself
 - **has his own personal interests in mind** rather than others – does things that benefits self first, and others second
 - **hurts others to derive some benefit**
 - **illus.: publically belittling** people to their face or behind their back
 - **gossips and maligns to derive personal benefit**
 - **illus.: makes himself look better by making others look worse**
- - a proud person **deceives himself into thinking he's humble**, rather than critically evaluating yourself and observing his proud, arrogant, and boastful behavior
 - **illus.: few proud people think their proud**, and about to fall and stumble
 - **illus.: proud people are the ones who'll pay the least attention this lesson**, but the humble. . . .

- **How do we extinguish pride in our lives?** – a sin we all wrestle with
 - “extinguish” means to *put out like a fire*, and to *put an end to*
 - **metaphor: pride is like a fire that has to be put out**, or it will devour us, and destroy our souls
 - **Eph. 6:16** take the shield of faith, will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of Satan
 - **we have to put an end to pride, think and live differently, if we want to go to heaven**

- **- repent, confess to God, ask forgiveness**
 - **be specific when asking forgiveness, a proud person likes to beat around the bush** and just pray for forgiveness in general terms
 - repentance requires **retraining** – below

- **- retrain ourselves with God’s word, to think the right way – correct thoughts result in correct actions**
 - **Mk. 7:17-22** the things in our hearts defile us
 - **we think it, we do it**
 - **must change the heart to change the outer man**
 - **Col. 3:10** knowledge (*epignosis*, knowing and applying, conforming to God’s word) **is the engine of spiritual change**
 - **Col. 3:5-9** note the change needed in them
 - **Rom. 12:2** transformed by renewing our minds
 - **Rom. 1:5; 16:26** in obedience to the faith
 - **Rom. 1:16** with the gospel which is the power of God unto salvation
 - **illus.: true story of a murderer converted to Christ**
 - **man in another country who would storm houses** and drag innocent people off to prison
 - **sometimes he would hunt people down, chasing** them from one city to another, until he caught them
 - **some people he even put to death**, joining together with other people to commit murder
 - **he heard the gospel as it was preached, but ignored it**, and even fought against it
 - **then, one day when tragedy struck, he was brought to his knees**, and finally cried out to the Lord, praying for non-stop for three days
 - **the next time he heard the gospel, he obeyed**
 - **his life was immediately changed**, because he changed his heart, and changed his life
 - **you know him mostly by his Roman name, the apostle Paul**

 - **to change the outside man, we have to change the inside man**
 - **we change the inside man with the word of God**

- - retrain ourselves with God's word to **love Him and be humble toward Him**
 - **Mk. 12:30** greatest commandment: love God heart, soul, mind, strength
 - **1 Jn. 5:3** love of God is to keep commandments
 - **pride is a sin – proud people don't love God**
 - **Ja. 4:6** God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble
 - **pride is a sin – proud people don't love God**
 - **Ja. 4:7-10** **humble**: submit to God, resist devil, draw near to God, cleanse self, attitude change to mourn and weep, then God exalts
 - **Ja. 4:11-12** don't try to be the lawgiver, equal to God, humble yourself
 - **Ja. 4:13-16** don't boast as if can control future, but say. "If the Lord wills. . . ."
 - **realize our place in the world, and our relationship with God**
 - **it's not about self, it's about God** and His kingdom, and the small contribution we can make
 - **Gal. 6:14** not boast, except in the cross of Christ, through which we were crucified to the world
 - **not boast about personal things, but only the things of God**

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 - **Mk. 12:31** love neighbor as self, 2nd greatest command – **not harm through boastful pride**
 - **1 Cor. 13:4-8a** love is not boastful, arrogant, unbecoming – **no room for pride in godly relationships**
 - **Rom. 12:9a** love is without hypocrisy
 - **Rom. 12:10** devoted to one another in brotherly love, giving preference to one another in honor
 - **Rom. 12:16** same mind toward one another, not be haughty in mind, associate with the lowly, not wise in own estimation
 - **Phil. 2:3-5** we are to be humble as Jesus was
 - **vs. 3** not selfish or conceited
 - **vs. 4** looking out for interests of others, not just our own
 - **vs. 5** with the same attitude of Jesus – **vs. 6-8 the cross**

Summary / Inv.

- anyone who realizes what God has done, and Jesus, will react with a humble and contrite heart
 - the prideful and arrogant are uncaring, and unaffected by Jesus sacrifice

- to extinguish the pride in our lives, we must be fervent followers of Jesus, and mindful of His cross

- Do you love the Lord so much there is no room in your heart for pride?

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