

#6 Overcome Pride with Humility



Humility is the proper mindset for life. It enables one to relate closely to God and others and properly fulfill one's God-given duties. There is no room for pride.

A.) Understand Pride's Darkness

- While the word pride or proud can have a positive meaning of 'delighted in,' the scriptures speak of another usage when man wrongly thinks of himself as apart from God.
- Started in the Garden of Eden (Ezekiel 28:12-17).
- Pride forms a dangerous partition separating us from God and others.
- Pride seeks to possess our hearts and, if not restrained, will destroy us.
- "God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble" (Ja 4:6).
- Pride is wrongly comparative, subtle, rebellious, and idolatrous. (Acts 12:21-23)



◆ Pride leads to distorted evaluations: self-esteem

- Self-esteem proponents evaluate individuals outside of God's involvement in one's life.
- Self-esteem does not evaluate one's activities in light of God's commands and calling.
 - *"For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have reason for boasting in regard to himself alone, and not in regard to another" (Galatians 6:3-4).*

◆ Four stages of dealing with pride

- 1) Unwilling to turn from pride - Herod (Acts 12:21-23)
- 2) Willing to turn from pride after suffering some judgment - Hezekiah (2 Ch 32:24-26)
- 3) Willing to turn from pride with little or no judgment (James 4:9)
- 4) Carefully discern those temptations to pride and exchange them for humility (1 Pe 3:8)



◆ Consequences of pride

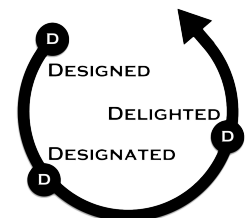
- Pride denigrates and despises others.
- Pride keeps us from mercifully and kindly dealing with others.
- Pride does not seek to build up each other.
- Pride causes tension, conflict, splits, and a critical spirit.
- Pride sees no value for those not serving his purpose (counters body life view).

B.) Replacing our Pride with Humility

- God kindly offers us grace, like Hezekiah, to turn from our pride:
 - 1) Heart lifted up (2 Chr 32:24-25); 2) Humbled his pride (2 Chr 32:26).

◆ Seeking a balanced view of life - the truth

- God has **designed**, created, and gifted us (Acts 20:24; Eph 2:10a).
- God **designated** us responsible by His grace to carry out His work (Eph 2:10b, Tit 2:14).
- We are **delighted** in God and His calling as we see Him enrich our lives through our faithful service and praise Him from our hearts (Psalms 96:3; Rom 12:1).



- There is no victory over pride unless we **embrace** humility: knowing our need for God and others, identifying the gifts of others and building them up, sincerely complimenting and encouraging others, and believing the greater good cannot be done without them.

◆ Steps to gain a balanced view

- **Misplaced Confidence:** A prideful person does not believe that God knows the best; instead, he trusts in his own judgment and resources, resulting in a swollen self-perspective.
- **Proper God-confidence:** Humility focuses on faithfully responding to God according to His will with great delight in the Lord.

1) Start with repentance from pride (short

- Start right where you are—on a journey from pride to humility.
- Confess your general arrogance ([Romans 11:36](#)).
- Handle temptations during prayer (think ‘opposite’)

2) Detect specific prideful weaknesses (Ephesians 5:9)

- Observe particular areas of your proud heart.
- Expose each proud area of your life in light of truth.
- Pride says, “I am more spiritual than others here. Others should admire me.”

Truth: I am spiritually dark and dead ([Ephesians 2:1](#)); spiritual growth is from Him.

Truth: I am saved by grace alone in Christ, so the Lord alone gets the glory (Eph 2:8).

Truth: My job is to build up others in love rather than to compare (1 John 4:7; Ja 4:11).

3) Declare and embrace the truth: Truth statements expose the lies upon which our pride rests, thus crippling it.

“But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction” (1 Tim 6:9).

- ◆ **Principle:** Wanting to get (more) rich is accompanied by temptations (1 Timothy 6:9) as I despise my present circumstances and desire what God has not given me. A person is evaluated by what he has rather than in obedience.

Resolve: I will not set my heart on gaining riches but delight in my present situation, trusting God for all my needs (Psalm 23:1).

“Both riches and honor come from Thee, and Thou dost rule over all, and in Thy hand is power and might; and it lies in Thy hand to make great, and to strengthen everyone” (1 Chr 29:12).

- ◆ **Principle:** Wealth & position, or the lack of it, comes from God (1 Chr 29:12; 1 Tim 6:17)

Resolve: Daily, thank God for my position in life and state my desire for His will.

Wealth truth: The Lord gave me my wealth to accomplish His purposes.

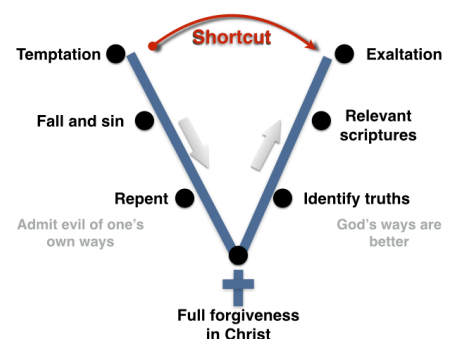
Accountability truth: I am accountable for what I receive and must wisely use it.

❖ The Exchange ([Ephesians 4:22-32](#) Bible study) bit.ly/1nWgfHo

- Exchange pride in position for love to please the Lord and help others.
- Exchange pride in my holiness with a consistent focus on helping others.

🚩 Life Application: Put on Humility

- * Carefully monitor my pride, extinguish its lust with the truth, and confess my pride.
- * Cherish God’s calling and resources for my life, even when I experience something less than what I formerly possessed (e.g., [Job](#) or through persecution).



- * I seek to pray for and edify those around me from my position and resources.
- * Recognize that any promotions are for God's greater purposes.

➔**Key: Genuine humility provides a beautiful life goal (Mat 5:3-5)!**

Life Sharing & Assignment

1. List at least one area in which you are tempted to become proud. What diabolical thoughts (i.e., temptations) allure you?
 2. There are four stages of dealing with pride (end page 1). Which level best depicts your life? Can you give a specific example?
 3. What misunderstandings do you have of humility? What characterizes genuine humility, and how is it most desirable (Num 12:3)?
- ♦ Do assignments #1-4 on overcoming pride.

