

Do we have a heart filled with pride?

The symptoms of pride can be likened to those of cancer. At first a person is unaware of the cancer, and it grows silently inside the body. Then the person realizes that something isn't right. If they ignore it, the cancer can become consuming and potentially a lethal disease. BUT thank GOD for HIS mercy and ability to heal all disease including cancer.

So it is with pride. Once we recognize the symptoms of pride in our lives, we have two choices: we can ignore the symptoms and let pride destroy us, or we can go to God and ask Him to show us the extent of the problem and trust Him to help us deal with it. The symptoms of pride include:

- **Stealing from God's glory.** To have an honest estimation and understanding of our God-given gifts and abilities is not pride. Such an assessment is necessary if we are to develop the talents that God has invested in us. However, it is a dangerous form of pride that causes us to take credit for the gifts that God has given us. We have no power. We are not divine. He has all power and He alone is GOD and divinity.

- **Self-centeredness.** Self.. isn't that what the antichrist kingdom of Unloving spirits is all about? It is all about me, myself, and I.. me me me and by the way me.

- Unloving spirits takes our eyes off of GOD and HIS way which is love and places it on self as our own god through selfishness. I have heard people say we need to die to self, no we really need to die to selfishness. Dying to self actually comes out of Buddhism and is a form of self destruction.

- Satanism is very self centered and is even in the church in the form of self bitterness, self hatred and self rejection.

- We are GOD's Beloved children we are not rejected and as the apple of HIS eye, HIS centered attention, who are we to say we are worthless and rejected? When we say that we are agreeing with the enemy who is rejected WE ARE NOT.

So if in the exercising of our spiritual gifts and natural abilities, we ride over the feelings of others and insist on getting our own way, then we need to reexamine our "gifts." If we are not using our abilities to bring blessing to others, then we are misusing them.

- **A demanding spirit.** The pride of a demanding person is revealed by his constantly bringing attention to the things that have not been done for

him, rather than the things that have been done. In demanding that people do things our way (*all the time*), we are saying, "I am superior to you." I would think that this comes out of control due to our own fears of letting go and letting GOD. We have to begin to trust others and GOD to fix things even if a person messes up. That is what GOD does with us.

- **Superiority.** Pride causes us to believe we are more important than others and to look down on them. Such haughtiness reveals a belief that somehow we are closer to God, or better than other people because of our doctrines, actions and intrinsic worth. This can be tied to a form of religious pride, a religious spirit and like JOB 40 and 41 can involve behemoth and leviathan

- **Sarcasm.** Caustic comments may be socially acceptable, but they have no place in the Kingdom of God. Sarcasm is a thinly veiled attempt to impress people by highlighting the faults of others in a pseudo-humorous way. Through sarcasm we judge and reject people, forgetting that they too are made in the image of God. This can also include coarse jesting.

- **A judgmental-ism and critical spirit and attitude or spiritual bigotry.** Jesus died to make us one body in HIM, but (*destructive*) criticism divides relationships and destroys churches. People who are critical and (*unbiblically*) judgmental have difficulty seeing the good in others and, when they are confronted about it, many times they are quick to negate it through the sin of comparison (*which is envy and jealousy*). In judging (*unbiblically*) another person we are saying, "I know better. I can do it better. Why don't they just move over and let me do it?"

- **Mat 7:1** Judge not, that ye be not judged.

- **Mat 7:2** For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.

- **Mat 7:3** And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?

- Mat 7:4 Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam *is* in thine own eye?
- Mat 7:5 Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.

Rom 2:1 Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things.

Rom 2:2 But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things.

Rom 2:3 And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God?

Rom 2:4 Or despises thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and **longsuffering**; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?

Rom 2:5 But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;

Rom 2:6 Who will render to every man according to his deeds:

Rom 2:7 To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life:

Rom 2:8 But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath,

Rom 2:9 Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile;

Rom 2:10 But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, also to the Gentiles

Rom 2:11 For there is no respect of persons with God.

Instead of looking at all the faults in others, or seeing the speck in another eye and forgetting about the log in our own ...which is judgementalism..

...Let's focus on what they have overcome, what has been perfected by GOD, what is good in their lives"....

Ya know we need one another, even though we are not perfect yet amen?... We need to look at what we can all become through HIM.. like HE looks at us and has mercy on us.

- **Scorner**

Pro 21:24 Proud *and* haughty scorner *is* his name, who dealeth in proud wrath.

Wow that says it all... in our pride we become bitter and judgmental and a scorner

Pro 9:7 He that reproveth a scorner getteth to himself shame: and he that rebuketh a wicked *man* *getteth* himself a blot.

- ***Lying and Cursing**

- Psa 59:12 *For* the sin of their mouth *and* the words of their lips let them even be taken in their pride: and for cursing and lying *which* they speak.

- **Contentious**

- Pro 13:10 Only by pride cometh contention but with the well advised *is* wisdom.

- Pro 14:3 In the mouth^{H6310} of the foolish^{H191} *is* a rod^{H2415} of pride:^{H1346} but the lips^{H8193} of the wise^{H2450} shall preserve^{H8104} them.

- **Unmerciful**

Rom 1:28 And^{G2532} even as^{G2531} they did not^{G3756} like^{G1381} to retain^{G2192} God^{G2316} in^{G1722} *their* knowledge,^{G1922} God^{G2316} gave them over^{G3860 G846} to^{G1519} a reprobate^{G96} mind,^{G3563} to do^{G4160} those things which are not convenient;^{G2520 G3361}

Rom 1:29 Being filled^{G4137} with all^{G3956} unrighteousness,^{G93} fornication,^{G4202} wickedness,^{G4189} covetousness,^{G4124} maliciousness,^{G2549} full^{G3324} of envy,^{G5355} murder,^{G5408} debate,^{G2054} deceit,^{G1388} malignity;^{G2550} whisperers,^{G5588}

Rom 1:30 Backbiters,^{G2637} haters of God,^{G2319} despiteful,^{G5197} proud,^{G5244} boasters,^{G213} inventors^{G2182} of evil things,^{G2556} disobedient^{G545} to parents,^{G1118}

Rom 1:31 Without understanding,^{G801} covenantbreakers,^{G802} without natural affection,^{G794} implacable,^{G786} unmerciful:^{G415}

Rom 1:32 Who^{G3748} knowing^{G1921} the^{G3588} judgment^{G1345} of God,^{G2316} that^{G3754} they which commit^{G4238} such things^{G5108} are^{G1526} worthy^{G514} of death,^{G2288} not^{G3756} only^{G3440} do^{G4160} the same,^{G846} but^{G235(G2532)} have pleasure^{G4909} in them that do^{G4238} them.

Pro 11:17 The merciful^{H2617} man^{H376} doeth good^{H1580} to his own soul:^{H5315} but *he that is* cruel^{H394} troubleth^{H5916} his own flesh.^{H7607}

- **Impatience.** By being impatient we signify that our ideas, projects, programs and schedules are more important than those of other people. Many times we have to wait on others, but becoming impatient at such times, regardless of who is at fault, is never justified.

What is the opposite of impatience? Longsuffering

Num 14:18 The LORD *is* longsuffering, and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression, and by no means clearing *the guilty*, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth *generation*.

God is longsuffering, merciful and forgiving, that is who HE is, HE is LOVE... as born again believers this should be our very nature.

I do not know about you but I admittedly fall short and God has had me write this teaching truly to take a hard look at myself. If you want to walkout and expose your own stuff start writing teachings to help others.

Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering,^{G3115} gentleness, goodness, faith,

Gal 5:23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

- **An unteachable spirit.** None of us is above the need for correction in some area of our lives. When we are confronted, do we listen? Or do we ignore what that person is telling us? Do we accept his reproof? Or do we become aloof and resentful that they would dare to correct us?

If we can lay aside our pride, we will benefit from the insights of many wise and godly people. However, if we are unwilling to accept this kind of correction, we have become unteachable.

Idleness, the pride of life through abundance, leading to neglect of the poor and needy

Eze 16:49 Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fullness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy.

1Jn 2:16 For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

- **Self-pity.** Self-pity results when we cling to our hurts, frustrations and disappointments instead of turning our problems over to the Lord. We do this because we enjoy the attention that comes when someone feels sorry for us and because we think we can do a better job of dealing with our problems than God can.

Is it possible, given the deceptive nature of pride, to have victory over it?

Perhaps our goal should be not just freedom from pride but the opposite of pride which is honor held by the *humble in spirit*

- Pro 29:23 A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.

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Our focus should be Christlikeness, the essence of humility. Our concern then would be focused *not only* on getting rid of something but on yielding to Christ so that He can make us like Himself.

We can begin to define humility by what it is not

- 1) Humility is *not* being embarrassed by the disclosure of our worst sins.
- 2) It does *not* come from being shamed publicly.
- 3) Humility is *not* a form of self-hatred, *nor* is it a low estimate of our gifts and abilities.
- 4) It is *not* aesthetic withdrawal from the world, and it is *not* a mystical experience.

What then is humility?

1) Humility is dependence on God.

2) Humility is acknowledging our absolute and total dependence on God, the Creator, and daily looking to Him as the one true Source of forgiveness and mercy, as the One who gives counsel and direction in every decision in life.

3) Humility is a longing in our hearts for a relationship and communion with God.

4) Humility is the willingness to be honest with ourselves and with others, to be known for who we really are. We don't need to tell everyone everything about ourselves. But we can come to terms with our fears and failures, and share them with godly people who are close to us.

Honesty about our shortcomings should be a way of life. For example, if we fail to fulfill our responsibilities at work, we should admit that we were wrong and ask for forgiveness. If we offend a family member, we should humble ourselves and apologize for our insensitivity and impatience.

Humility is a realistic/biblical view of ourselves.

Consider the importance that God's Word puts on humility:

· "Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."⁴

· "For the Lord takes pleasure in His people; He will beautify the afflicted ones (*humble*) with salvation."⁵

· "God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble."⁶

· Pro 29:23 A man's^{H120} pride^{H1346} shall bring him low:^{H8213} but honour^{H3519} shall uphold^{H8551} the humble^{H8217} in spirit.^{H7307}

"Lord, I desperately need You in my life. I have come to the end of myself. I ask You to use this time to bring me to a place of brokenness. Do anything You need to do in my life to produce Christlikeness and humility in me. I ask You to be ruthless in dealing with my sin. No matter how long it takes or what You have to do, I welcome Your loving judgment in my heart. No matter what the cost, Lord, I commit myself to go Your way. I ask for no shortcuts to my growth."

Ruthless honesty about ourselves is the only way to break the pattern of pride and deception.

Humility brings liberty, healing, truth, growth, and reconciliation to God, ourselves and others.

We cannot force humility to grow, but we can choose to humble ourselves and, in so doing, welcome the Holy Spirit to rule supreme in our lives.

I am sure there is much more I could share from the Word about pride however the time does not permit. However I found this in Zep 3 and felt it gives us hope in lue of the future and the abolishment of pride.

Zep 3:11 In that day shalt thou not be ashamed for all thy doings, wherein thou hast transgressed against me: for then I will take away out of the midst of thee them that rejoice in thy pride, and thou shalt no more be haughty because of my holy mountain.

Zep 3:12 I will also leave in the midst of thee an afflicted and poor people, and they shall trust in the name of the LORD.

Zep 3:13 The remnant of Israel shall not do iniquity, nor speak lies; neither shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth: for they shall feed and lie down, and none shall make them afraid.

Zep 3:14 Sing, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel; be glad and rejoice with all the heart, O daughter of Jerusalem.

Zep 3:15 The LORD hath taken away thy judgments, he hath cast out thine enemy: the king of Israel, even the LORD, is in the midst of thee: thou shalt not see evil any more.

Zep 3:16 In that day it shall be said to Jerusalem, Fear thou not: and to Zion, Let not thine hands be slack.

Zep 3:17 The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing.

Zep 3:18 I will gather them that are sorrowful for the solemn assembly, who are of thee, to whom the reproach of it was a burden.

Zep 3:19 Behold, at that time I will undo all that afflict thee: and I will save her that halteth, and gather her that was driven out; and I will get them praise and fame in every land where they have been put to shame.

Zep 3:20 At that time will I bring you again, even in the time that I gather you: for I will make you a name and a praise among all people of the earth, when I turn back your captivity before your eyes, saith the LORD.