

Tragic Flaws

Simon Peter - Pride

September 19, 2021

I. INTRODUCTION

A. We are in a series today entitled “Tragic Flaws.”

Video:

1. We are having discipleship discussions on the battle within all of us.

Paul said:

The flesh struggles against the spirit and the spirit struggles against the flesh...

2. During this series, we are looking at **several Biblical characters in a new light – by examining their personal weaknesses and how they dealt with**

them – or how they failed to deal with them.

So far, we have discussed:
Anger, Lust, Fear, and itching ears.

**Today we discuss Simon Peter and
Pride.**

1 Peter 5:5-8

Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, 7 casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. 8 Be sober-minded; be watchful.

ESV

A. Working Definition of Pride: an excessive preoccupation with self and one's own importance, achievements, status, or possessions. This sin is considered rebellion against God because it attributes to one's self the honor and glory that only God is due.

1. Since it is an excessive concentration on self, it can manifest itself as extremely poor self-esteem.
2. Pride is the original sin of Satan, it is the original sin of Adam and Eve, and it is the basis for all rebellion against God.
3. Here is what Charles Spurgeon said about pride:

Charles H. Spurgeon:

“Pride is so natural to fallen man that it springs up in his heart like weeds in a well-watered garden ... its every touch is evil. You may hunt down this fox, and think you have destroyed it, and lo! Your very exultation is pride. None have more pride

than those who dream that they have none. Pride is a sin with a thousand lives; **it seems impossible to kill it.**”

3. Here is what Jesus says about pride:

Luke 18:10-14

10 "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 "The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: 'God, **I thank You that I am not like other people:** swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. 12 'I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.' 13 "But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, the sinner!' 14 "I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

NASU

I. WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?

1 Peter 5:5-8

Peter reminds us that pride is a spiritually vulnerable position, but humility before God is a position of power. He gives us some recommendations on how to remain humble.

- A. Who is talking to us about pride and what is his struggle with pride?
1. Peter is named among first among the list of Apostles, and many believe he was the first to be called by Jesus.
 2. He was the first to recognize Jesus as Messiah
 3. He was the first preacher among the apostles at the day of Pentecost.
 3. He was named first among the intimates of Jesus – Peter, James, and John.

B. When did his pride get in his way?

1. At the transfiguration
2. When Jesus named him "The Rock."
3. When Jesus was being arrested.
4. When Jesus was being crucified.
5. When he went back to fishing
6. When Jesus cooked breakfast for Peter and John.
7. When he shunned the gentile Christians for fear of the Jewish Christians.

C. Poor Simon Peter.

Poor gifted, anointed, beautiful, **prideful**
Peter.

This man, who battled pride his whole life, gives us some recommendations on a path to humility.

II. PATH TO HUMILITY

1 Peter 5:5-8

Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, 7 casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. 8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. (ESV)

A. Choose humility with others.

1. **STOP thinking so much about yourself** and spend more time thinking about other people and how they might be feeling.

2. Prefer one another.
3. Serve one another.
4. Love one another.
5. Pray for one another.
6. More relationships problems could be fixed by this one thing than any other single thing.

B. Choose humility before God.

6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you

1. Cast yourself on the Cornerstone and choose brokenness. If God is forced to humble you, it will be much more painful.

Luke 20:17-18

17 Then He looked at them and said,
"What then is this that is written:

'The stone which the builders rejected
Has become the chief cornerstone'?

18 Whoever falls on that stone will be
broken; but on whomever it falls, it will
grind him to powder."

NKJV

2. God Himself humbles the proud and
exalts the humble.

Matt 23:11-12

*11 But he who is greatest among you
shall be your servant. 12 And whoever
exalts himself will be humbled, and he
who humbles himself will be exalted.*

NKJV

C. Trust God's timing to promote you.

*6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God **so that at the proper time he may exalt you***

1. In Due Season:

Gal 6:9

9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. (KJV)

2. Promotion comes from the Lord, and I can miss the PROPER TIME, if I am not ready through humility.

D. Release your fears to God.

7 casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

1. Pride is really a manifestation of fear.

2. The truly confident have nothing to prove, but those lacking confidence must be re-affirmed continually.

3. One question to ask myself is:

In what, or whom, am I confident?

Self-confidence is a trap.

Confidence in God and the calling He has placed on my life is freeing.

E. Recognize the source of your pride.

1. Is it self-focus?

2. Is it fear of failure?

3. Is it an inflated sense of self?

4. Is it the devil whispering in my ear about how “great,” or “mistreated,” or “misunderstood” I am?

