

Life on Life: The Art of Personal Ministry 201

Class 13 - April 11, 2021

From Pride to Humility

With humility of mind, regard one another as more important than yourself. (Phil. 2:3)

I. Homework Discussion 9:05-9:20

You were directed to read Romans 13 and James 4 and to record for the purpose of sharing with your table your answers to the following questions.

- A.** Based on these passages, what roles does pride play in our ongoing sin?
- B.** What are some of the indications in these two passages of how humility will directly lead to conquering some of our greatest struggles?
- C.** What implications are here for you when you counsel others?

II. Definition: Pride & Humility 9:20-9:35

- A.** When someone is proud, he or she is focused on self. This is a form of self-worship. Proudful people believe that they are or should be the source of what is good, right, and worthy of praise. They also believe that they, by themselves, are (or should be) the accomplisher of anything that is worthwhile to accomplish, and that they should certainly be the benefactor of all things. In essence, they believe that all things should be from them, through them, and to them or for them. Pride is competitive toward others, and especially toward God. Pride wants to be on top. Pride seeks to ungod God. These phrases describe the arrogant.
- B.** Pride is:
 - 1. The mindset of self (a master's mindset rather than that of a servant)
 - 2. A focus on self and the service of self
 - 3. A pursuit of self-recognition and self-exaltation
 - 4. A desire to control and use all things for self
- C.** Humble people are focused on God and others, not on self. Even their focus on others is out of a desire to love and glorify God. They have no need to be recognized or approved. There is no competition with God or others. They have no need to elevate self, knowing that they have been forgiven and that God's love has been undeservedly and irrevocably set on them. Instead, a humble person's goal is to elevate God and encourage others. In short, they "no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf" (2 Cor. 5:15). From these truths we can put together a simple definition of humility.
- D.** Humility is:
 - 1. The mindset of Christ (a servant's mindset)
 - 2. A focus on God and others,
 - 3. A pursuit of the recognition and the exaltation of God,
 - 4. A desire to glorify and please God in all things and by all things He has given

E. The Origin of Pride

1. It has been said that the first sin was pride – Lucifer lifting himself up to be equal with God (Isaiah 14:12-14; Ezekiel 28:12-16).
2. It is also said that pride is at the core of all sin because the first sin of mankind required the pride of going against God’s command, and because they did it to eat the fruit that was said by the serpent to be “desirable to make one wise.” We again see this reflected in Proverbs 6:16, where God says there are seven things he particularly hates. The first on the list was “haughty (proud) eyes. God hates pride because it is His rival.

III. What Does the Bible Say About Pride and Humility?

9:35-10:00

Our essential goal is to move from a self-focused perspective to a Christ-honoring one, from a “What do I want?” focus to a “What does God want and what do others need?” focus.

A. Definitions

1. Pride – (self-worship; putting ourselves in God’s place)
 - a. Six terms used in the Old Testament – like proud, exalted, high, lifted up
 - b. Two word groups used in the New Testament –
 - 1) One group is of words like lofty, proud and arrogant (similar to Old Testament)
 - 2) Second group are cognates of a word “smoky” or “cloudy,” probably referring to not seeing clearly
 - c. We need to make sure not to equate pride with boasting. Boasting is from pride, but pride shows up in SO MANY MORE ways that we often miss seeing our pride.
2. Humility (seeing ourselves accurately as compared with the Creator)
 - a. Old Testament are words like bow low, crouched down, crushed
 - b. New Testament words – two groups
 - 1) Gentle, serving, not bristly
 - 2) Servile, menial, ‘washing feet’

B. Biblical Examples

1. Pride
 - a. Satan – contradicts God (Genesis 3:4) [Anyone who contradicts God is proud]
 - b. Uzziah – 2 Chron. 26:16 – when he became strong, his heart acted corruptly...
 - c. Nebuchadnezzar – Daniel 4 on his roof, I did it for my glory
 - d. Belshazzar – Daniel 5 you have not humbled your heart but have exalted yourself
 - e. Pharisee in Luke 18:9-14 – prayed to himself, superior
 - f. Herod - Acts 12 “the voice of a god” (Very possibly was not flattery)

- g. Diotrephes – 3 John 9 – Loves to be first among them
- h. Deut. 8:11 Beware you do not forget the Lord your God by not keeping His commandments... otherwise, your heart will become proud and you will forget
- i. Proverbs 16:5 – Everyone proud in their heart is an abomination to the Lord
- j. Proverbs 16:18 – Pride goes before destruction
- k. Job 13:3 – But I would speak to the Almighty and I desire to argue with God

2. Humility

- a. Abraham preferred Lot on the giving of land
- b. Moses said to be the most humble man (Numbers 12:3)
- c. John the Baptist – may He increase and I decrease
- d. Mary – behold the bond slave of the Lord
- e. Tax collector in Luke 18:9-14 – be merciful to me, the sinner
- f. Paul - Acts 20 serving the Lord with humility and tears (frequently, prisoner)
- g. We are commanded to put on humility (Col. 3:12)
- h. Christ – All the gospels, plus Phil 2:3-11
- i. Romans 12:3 - Do not think too highly of yourself
- j. Luke 7:6 – Centurion – Lord, I am not worthy for you to come...
- k. Romans 11:36 – For from Him, and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever.
- l. Daniel 4:37 – I praise and honor and exalt the King of heaven for all His works are true and His ways are just and He is able to humble those who walk in pride.

C. Lifestyle Examples (Again, from Stuart Scott – you can find these online to reprint)

1. Pride

- a. Complain against God
- b. Lack of gratitude (deserve better)
- c. See yourself as better than others
- d. Inflated ideas about your ability
- e. Focused on your lack of abilities
- f. Perfectionism – Christ is perfect; you are not (Called to be faithful, not perfect)...
- g. Talking too much or talking too much about yourself
- h. Seeking independence or control (designed to be dependent and interdependent)
- i. Consumed with what others think – Huge source of pride
- j. Being devastated by criticism
- k. Unteachable, sarcastic, lowering others
- l. Not servants and lack of compassion
- m. Defensiveness and blame shifting
- n. Lack of admitting when you are wrong or slow to ask for forgiveness
- o. Lack of steadfast, humble prayer
- p. Being disrespectful of authority or resisting authority

- q. Voicing preferences when not asked
 - r. Mixing up specks and logs
 - s. Being impatient and irritable
 - t. Jealousy (fear of losing something) and envy (I should have that)
 - u. Using other people
 - v. Covering up things we have done or failed to do
 - w. Using attention-getting tactics
 - x. Not having close relationships
2. Humility
- a. Worshiping God
 - b. Giving thanks to Him in all things
 - c. Living 2 Cor. 5:9 – to please Him
 - d. Recognizing and trusting God and His promises
 - e. Overwhelmed at God’s grace
 - f. Gentle and patient
 - g. Good listener
 - h. One who prays without ceasing
 - i. Teachable spirit
 - j. Quick to admit wrong and acknowledge sin
 - k. Talk to people for their good
 - l. Genuinely glad for others
3. Additional Considerations
- a. Realize the person with “low self-esteem” also suffers from pride even though it does not present itself the same way as arrogance does.
 - b. With pride, it is not an issue of “if we have it” but of “where and how does it show?”
 - c. Key to identifying it is who we are focused on – ourselves or the Lord and others. If we are focused on our weakness or our ability or our pain, it is a sign of pride.

IV. How Do We Defeat* Pride? (*That is, what practical things reduce its influence?) 10:00-10:15

- A.** Linger longer on the pride. After all, God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble. Normally we want to run from it quickly because we do not want to see it. Instead, hover on it. See it. See when it shows. Don’t think you will quickly defeat it. Take time to see how deeply woven it is into our flesh. It will not go away until our new bodies.
- 1. Great example: Job and God beginning in chapter 38. When Job is convicted of the sin of finding fault with God in chapters 10-34 (after having begun very well), and repents in chapter 40, God dives in even harder.

2. Principle from Scott: When people shut up, it does not mean they are broken in conviction. (As Scott and others have pointed out, Randy Patton does the same thing that God did with Job when he was working with “Trey” in week #2 and Trey had not done his homework. He was “too busy.” Randy accepted the answer on its face, and then asked about his week, and what the things were that got in the way of the priority of study and growth. What about Tuesday night? Uh, huh. And Wednesday? What about Thursday? On through the week.)

B. Meditate on these portions of the scripture that bring you face to face with humility

1. Psalm 99
2. Psalm 73
3. 1 Cor. 10:1-13
4. Phil. 2:1-11
5. Others

C. Pray for God to search your heart and show you where this sin may be hurting you and hurting His desired work in and through you (See Psalm 139:23-24).

D. Use the lists Stuart Scott has on identifying pride and humility (See page five for partial list and look online for the complete lists).

E. Read the Old Testament often. It shows so many examples of pride and need for humility.

F. Study the person of Jesus in the gospels. Humility personified.

G. Invite others to let you know when you come across as proud.

H. Spend time in worship – personal worship especially.

I. Practice the one another commands (He moves us away from ourselves to others)

V. Scenarios

10:15-1030

A. Herb is a middle aged successful business man who considers himself a “self-made man” since he was born in poverty and missed some of the nurturing home life of others due his mother dying when he was three, but prevailed by hard work to make something of himself. But he misses the fellowship that others seem to enjoy. Men just don’t seem to care much for him so he doesn’t have many friends, male or female. His wife suggests that he causes much of this himself by being overly critical of others, and doesn’t accept criticism. He attributes this to his hard upbringing and makes sure everyone knows how hard it was. He frequently voices his opinion when not asked and becomes petulant when people don’t listen. His wife also points out that he seems angry most of the time, and gets easily disgusted with others who don’t share his viewpoint. The church he attends is looking for a new elder and he is surprised that the leadership in the church hasn’t approached him for this position.

- B.** Sally is married to Herb and puts up with his idiosyncrasies because he is a good provider and enjoys the social status that comes with being married to a successful businessman. She gets angry at Herb because he doesn't have the same attitude about having social events at their home on a regular basis, but holds her tongue because he angers so easily. Although their home is a nice colonial in a decent neighborhood, she keeps pressing Herb to move to a more affluent area of town where she could exercise her social skills with the more affluent crowd. She has been asked to engage in some ministries at her church, but she feels that folks that are involved in most of the ministries are "invisible" and don't get the credit they deserve, and most who do are a notch below her social status. She would like to lead a women's bible study but the leadership doesn't feel she is quite ready for that, but could use her in the nursery which doesn't appeal to her. She feels underappreciated as both a wife and church goer, and is thinking of asking Herb to consider changing to another church where her gifts might be more highly appreciated.
- C.** Examine these individuals and determine where pride is manifested in their lives. How would you approach them regarding their shortcomings (sins), and what verses would you use to bolster your argument of their becoming more "others" centered? Lastly, is there any hope for them? (verses?)