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## SESSION 2 | THE PERILS OF PRIDE

### I. INTRODUCTION

#### A. Humility draws God's Attention:

"But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word." (Isaiah 66:2)

#### B. Pride bring God's opposition:

"For the LORD of hosts has a day against all that is proud and lofty, against all that is lifted up and it shall be brought low." (Isaiah 2:12)

#### C. We all struggle with pride:

"Pride lurks behind every corner and manifests itself in unexpected ways." Thomas Schreiner, *New Testament Theology: Magnifying God in Christ*, 524.

"If you think you are not conceited, it means you are very conceited indeed." C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*, Ch. 8.

### II. PRIDE IS . . . WHAT?

#### A. Pride rejects God:

"For the wicked boasts of the desires of his soul, and the one greedy for gain curses and renounces the LORD. In the pride of his face the wicked does not seek him; all his thoughts are, 'there is no God.'" (Psalm 10:3-4)

"Thus says the LORD: Even so will I spoil the pride of Judah and the great pride of Jerusalem. This evil people, who refuse to hear my words, who stubbornly follow their own heart and have gone after other gods to and worship them..." (Jeremiah 13:9-10)

## **B. Pride is self-idolatry.**

"Pride is when sinful human beings aspire to the status and position of God and refuse to acknowledge their dependence upon him" CJ Mahaney, *Humility*, 31.

"The word of the LORD came to me<sup>2</sup> "Son of man, say to the prince of Tyre, Thus says the Lord GOD: "Because your heart is proud, and you have said, 'I am a god, I sit in the seat of the gods, in the heart of the seas, yet you are but a man, and no god, though you make your heart like the heart of a god,<sup>3</sup> you are indeed wiser than Daniel; no secret is hidden from you;<sup>4</sup> by your wisdom and your understanding, you have made wealth for yourself, and have gathered gold and silver, into your treasuries;<sup>5</sup> by your great wisdom in your trade, you have increased your wealth, and your heart has become proud in your wealth—<sup>6</sup> therefore thus says the Lord GOD: Because you make your heart like the heart of a god,<sup>7</sup> therefore, behold, I will bring foreigners upon you, the most ruthless of the nations; and they shall draw their swords against the beauty of your wisdom and defile your splendor." (Ezekiel 28: 1-7)

"When God is neglected, the runner-up god takes his place, namely man. And that, by definition, is the opposite of humility, namely, the haughty spirit called pride" John Piper, *Future Grace*, 86.

"They do all their deeds to be seen by others...they love the place of honor at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues, and greetings in the marketplaces and being called rabbi by others." (Matthew 23:5-6)

## **C. Pride is self-sufficiency:**

"Pride is a turning away from God specifically to take satisfaction in self...Every turning from God – for anything – presumes a kind of autonomy or independence that is the essence of pride." John Piper, *Future Grace*, 87

### III. PRIDE IS. . . DANGEROUS!

#### A. God is opposed to the proud:

"... for God opposes the proud..." (1 Peter 5:5b, see also James 4:6)

"The boastful shall not stand before your eyes; you hate all evildoers" (Psalm 5:5)

"The fear of the Lord is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate" (Proverbs 8:13)

- Why does God hate pride and oppose it?
  - "I am the LORD that is my name; my glory I give to no other." (Isaiah 42:8)
  - "Pride takes innumerable forms but has only one end: self-glorification."  
CJ Mahaney, *Humility*, 32

#### B. Pride leads to destruction and judgement:

"Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall." (Proverbs 16:18)

"When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with the humble is wisdom." (Proverbs 11:2)

"One's pride will bring him low, but he who is lowly in spirit will obtain honor." (Proverbs 29:23)

"Man in his pomp will not remain; he is like the beasts that perish. This is the path of those who have foolish confidence yet after them people approve of their boasts."  
(Psalm 49:12-13)

"Love the LORD, all you his saints! The LORD preserves the faithful but abundantly repays the one who acts in pride." (Psalm 31: 23)

"The haughty looks of man shall be brought low, and the lofty pride of men shall be humbled, and the LORD alone will be exalted in that day." (Isaiah 2:17)

### **Example of Uzziah**

"But when he was strong, he grew proud, to his destruction. For he was unfaithful to the LORD his God and entered the temple of the LORD to burn incense on the altar of incense." (2 Chronicles 26:16)

### **C. Pride is antithetical to the Gospel:**

"Human boasting contradicts the very message of the cross. It lifts up human potential, human wisdom, and human strength instead of focusing on what God has done in Christ. It is Exhibit A of idolatry." Thomas Schreiner, *New Testament Theology: Magnifying God in Christ*, 524.

"For even those who are circumcised do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world." (Galatians 6:13-14)

"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are God's workmanship created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." (Ephesians 2:8-10)

"God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are so that no human being might boast in the presences of God. And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord". (1 Corinthians 28-31)

### **D. Pride hinders fellowship with God and with others.**

"But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts do not boast and be false to the truth. This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice." (James 3:14-16)

"Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves." (Philippians 2:3)

## IV. HOW TO RECOGNIZE PRIDE

### A. Common Types of pride:

"Thus says the LORD: 'Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches...' (Jeremiah 9:23)

### B. Weak Pride: Self-pity, Anxiety, fear of man

"...The irony of this insatiable itch in the self-sufficient soul becomes even more evident when pride cannot get what it wants and begins to flounder in weakness." John Piper, *Future Grace*, 94.

### C. You may be prideful if...

- a. You are consistently comparing yourself to others
- b. You are worried about what others think of you
- c. You interrupt people of when they are talking
- d. You are quick to take offense.
- e. You are easily embarrassed and not able to laugh at yourself.
- f. You are consistently anxious
- g. You are prone to self-pity
- h. You are highly critical of others
- i. You get consistently get angry
- j. You are do not pray consistently
- k. You do not confess sin to others
- l. You are not consistently reading God's word.

**D. Ask a friend or your spouse help identify where you struggle with pride**

## **V. HOW TO ROOT OUT PRIDE**

**A. Boast in God not in yourself:**

"...But let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness, in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD." (Jeremiah 9:24)

"For who sees anything different in you? What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?" (1 Corinthians 4:7)

**B. Live in the shadow of the Cross:**

"For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation." (Romans 5:6-11)

**C. Consistently confess sin and your pride**

"Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed." (James 5:16)

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)

**D. Live dependent on God. Read his word, pray, and be in fellowship with his people.**

"And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live

by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.”  
(Deuteronomy 8:3)

“Abide in me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abode in me.” (John 15:4)



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