

The Potter's Christian Life Center

SERMON NOTES
with Pastor Greg Formey



The Greatest Sin

James 4:6b

Sunday, June 23, 2019

All the problems of our world find their origin in one (and only one) source - the sin of pride. Nothing else can compare to its potential to devastate a life, a family, or a nation. Stated in another way, there are many ways to go wrong in life. Pride is the worst.

It may be shocking or angering to know that no one on earth is free from it. No, not even you.

James 4:6

"...God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble. NIV

WHAT PRIDE IS AND IS NOT

- **What it is not**

- Taking pleasure in being praised by others
- Being honestly proud of your family, church, school, or sports team
- Having confidence in your abilities and gifts

Proverbs 27:2

Let someone else praise you, not your own mouth— a stranger, not your own lips.

This is a caution against pride; and an exhortation not to judge of ourselves by our talents, wealth, or function, but to form another standard for evaluating ourselves, by our Christian character.

- **What it is**

Philippians 2:3

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.

- Disordered love for oneself
- An established habit of focusing on "what is best for me" over "what is truly best for others."
- A disposition that is always competitive and desiring power over others.

WHY PRIDE IS DANGEROUS

- It is the cause of every other evil.
- The devil became the devil by it.
- It is the complete anti-God state of mind.

THE SUBTLETY OF PRIDE

Romans 12:1,2

Because of the privilege and authority God has given me, I give each of you this warning: Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us. NLT

The more prideful you are, the more you see it and dislike it in others. It is a clever sin; Everyone knows you have it except you.

It may be surprising that pride can even influence you to believe that you are humble. C.S. Lewis observed, *"People who are truly humble do not recognize that they are humble. They are not thinking of themselves or others at all. They are too busy enjoying life to do so."*

THE TEST FOR PRIDE

Your pride is always in competition with everyone else's pride.

How much do you dislike it when other people snub you, or refuse to notice you, or show off in your presence?

C.S. Lewis explains it this way: "We say that people are proud of being rich, or smart, or good-looking, but they are not; not really. They are actually proud of being a richer or smarter, or better looking than others. If everyone else became equally rich, etc., that would be nothing to be proud about."

Conclusion

A lion who wanted every animal in the jungle to know he was king so he went from animal to animal soliciting their respect. He went to a bear and roared, "Who is the king of the jungle? The bear said, "You are of course." He went to the tiger and roared, "Who is the king of the jungle? The tiger said, "Everyone knows you're king." Then he ran into an elephant and roared, "Who is the king of the jungle? The elephant reached down and grabbed the lion with his trunk, whirling him around in the air, slamming him to the ground and into a few trees, and dunked him in the river before throwing him onto the shore. Dazed, bloodied & bruised, the lion got up and said, "Listen, if you don't know the answer, you don't have to get mean about it."

We are in the process of being delivered from pride when we begin to understand who is really in charge. We all need to realize that God is "large and in charge" and that we are not.

Matthew 23:12

For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.