

3-5-2016, COTR Texarkana

Title: Humble or Proud?

Purpose: Expose pride and provoke people to be humble.

Spiritual Truth: Am I arrogant and independent or am I humble and dependent on God?

Text: Jeremiah 9:23-24

Topic: Pride, Humility, Arrogance, Dependent on God

Series: What's Inside?

Series Purpose: Provoke people to develop godly character and personal values that reflect a Biblical worldview.

Humble or Proud?

I. Introduction

- A. **Video: Sermon Spice *Humilify*.** What do you think we're talking about today?
- B. **Title: Humble or Proud?**
- C. Listen to messages @ChurchOnTheRock.org or on the COTR iPhone/ Android app
- D. **Today we'll continue the series "What's Inside?" and ask the question, (Spiritual Truth) "Am I arrogant and independent or am I humble and dependent on God?"**
- E. **Purpose: Expose pride and provoke people to be humble.**
- F. **Text, Jeremiah 9:23–24 (ESV)** 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, (NCV) 24 But if people want to brag, let them brag that they understand and know me. Let them brag that **I am the LORD**, and that **I am kind and fair**, and that **I do things that are right on earth**. This kind of bragging pleases me," says the LORD.
 - F.1. We aspire to be smart, powerful and wealthy but who's the source of our wisdom, power and wealth, me or God? Do I boast about what I have and what I've done or do I recognize God as the source of all I have? This is the difference between pride and humility.
- G. **Def. pride:** an inflated view of one's self; a feeling of superiority because of ability, looks, wealth, accomplishments or position. Pride manifests itself by looking down on others and acting like I'm better than others. Proud people act as if they don't need anyone, even God to be successful. Proud people take credit for all their accomplishments and give no recognition or honor to God. They also take a lot of selfies
 - G.1. Pride is easy to recognize in you but hard to recognize in me.
- H. **Def. humble:** to see ourselves as we really are, in desperate need of God and unable to do anything without Him. To recognize our limitations and live in total dependence upon

God. Humble people show honor and respect for others and imitate Jesus by serving others. They associate with people who are in a lower social standing. Culture views humility as a sign of weakness or even a character flaw but it's a virtue in the Bible.

II. **Pride blinds and deceives us**

- A. **Context, Daniel 4:29–33 (ESV)**...King Nebuchadnezzar was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, 30 and the king answered and said, “Is not this great Babylon, which **I have built by my mighty power** as a royal residence and for the glory of **my majesty**?” 31 While the words were still in the king’s mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, “O King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: The kingdom has departed from you, 32 and you shall be driven from among men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. And you shall be made to eat grass like an ox...**until you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will.**” 33 Immediately the word was fulfilled against Nebuchadnezzar...
- A.1. King Nebuchadnezzar was powerful, wealthy and probably smart. Ancient authors spoke of his achievements as if they were the creation of some superhuman figure who was godlike. He built the Hanging gardens, 1 of the 7 wonders of the world.
- A.2. It's easy to become proud when we're successful. Our success becomes a spiritual test to see if I take credit for it all and lavish it on myself or recognize God's role and help others
- B. **Lessons about pride:** Vs. 30 Is not this **great Babylon**, which **I have built by my mighty power** as a **royal residence** and **for the glory of my majesty**?
- B.1. The language of pride is I and me. Pride says life is all about me, because of me and for me. We call it narcissism: excessive interest in oneself and one's physical appearance. Vanity, self-obsession, conceited, self-centered, extreme selfishness, with a grandiose view of one's own talents and a craving for admiration.
- B.2. Examples of pride: (1) Pic Michael Douglas Wall Street, Greed is good. Pr. 16:18 (MSG) First pride, then the crash— the bigger the ego, the harder the fall. (2) Pic Kanye West, hip hop singer “the greatest pain in my life is that I will never be able to see myself perform live.” “I am a god” (3) Pic of Titanic. “God himself could not sink this ship!” Titanic crewmember to passenger, Mrs Sylvia Caldwell. Titanic, name (having great power) and thing, will stand as a monument and warning to human presumption. The Bishop of Winchester, preaching in 1912.
- B.3. Pride takes all the credit for what I do and have. “I have built”. 1 Cor 4:7 (NIV)... **What do you have that you did not receive?** And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not? E.g. a teen with rich parents bragging on what he has.

- B.4. Pride is overly concerned about status: Luke 20:46 (MSG) Watch out for the religion scholars (*ESV scribes*). They love to walk around in academic gowns, preen in the radiance of public flattery, bask in prominent positions, sit at the head table at every church function.
- B.5. Pride acts as if I'm better than you because of my position, skin color, wealth, education, etc. Haman was incensed Mordecai wouldn't bow to him.

III. God will humble us when we're proud

- A. **Context Daniel 4:34–36 (ESV)** At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, **lifted my eyes to heaven**, and my reason returned to me, and **I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him** who lives forever, for **his dominion** is an everlasting dominion, and **his kingdom** endures from generation to generation; 35 all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as **nothing**, and **he does according to his will**... among the inhabitants of the earth; (NCV) **No one** can stop his powerful hand or question what he does. 36 At the same time my reason returned to me...I was established in my kingdom, and still more greatness was added to me.
 - A.1. Proverbs 18:12 (NCV) Proud people will be ruined, but the humble will be honored. Matthew 23:12 (ESV) Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.
 - A.2. Nebuchadnezzar was honored when he realized: (1) God was the source of all he had and did (2) God makes the rules and not me (3) it's all about Him, not me
 - A.3. God humbles us so he can trust us with more.

IV. Religious people can be proud. Lk 18:10–14 (NLT) “Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a despised tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed this prayer: ‘I thank you, God, that **I am not a sinner like everyone else. For I don't cheat, I don't sin, and I don't commit adultery.** I'm certainly not like that tax collector! 12 I fast twice a week, and I give you a tenth of my income.’ 13 “But the tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed. Instead, he beat his chest in sorrow, saying, ‘**O God, be merciful to me**, for I am a sinner.’ 14 I tell you, this sinner, not the Pharisee, returned home justified before God. For **those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.**”

- A. **James 4:6 (ESV)...God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.**
- B. **Signs of religious pride:** (1) self-righteousness: I'm not a sinner like everyone else. (2) I'm more spiritual than other people (3) blind to our faults, “I don't sin” 1 John 1:10 (NLT) **If we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar** and showing that his word has no place in our hearts. (4) Strict obedience to Scripture, fast and tithe to makes us righteous. This behavior “exalts our self” but is abhorrent to God.

- C. **Never forget** that without God, we're like the tax collector and say "O God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner", all my works are like filthy rags; I need grace to be saved.

V. **Conclusion: How do we "humble ourselves"?**

- A. **Ja 4:10 (NLT) Humble yourselves** before the Lord, and he will lift you up in honor.
- B. **How do we humble ourselves?** (1) recognize any form of pride and repent (2) tell God and remind yourself every day: Acts 17:28 (NLT) ...For in him (*Christ*) we live and move and exist (*ESV have our being*)...on our knees, with eyes closed and heads bowed say: everything I have, everything I can do and everything I'll become is because of Christ. (3) Follow the example of Jesus Matthew 20:26–28 (NIV)...whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant ...28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, **but to serve**, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

VI. **Response**

- A. **Prayer/ Souls:** Lord I choose the path of humility; forgive my pride.
- B. *** *Logos Bible Software and library, Noah Webster's first edition of An American dictionary of the English language, Eerdmans dictionary of the Bible, Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary, Tyndale Bible dictionary, Eerdmans dictionary of the Bible and Lexham Theological Wordbook were used to prepare this message*