

The Root of the Problem

11 March 2018

Wonderful Mercy Church

David Hammerslag

Ephesians 2:1-10 (NLT)

¹Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. ²You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. ³All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else.

Ephesians 2:1-10 (NLT)

⁴But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much,
⁵that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!) ⁶For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus. ⁷So God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of his grace and kindness toward us, as shown in all he has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 2:1-10 (NLT)

⁸God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. ⁹Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. ¹⁰For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

Ephesians 2:1-3 (NLT)

¹Once you were **dead because of your disobedience** and your many sins. ²You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, **obeying the devil**—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. ³All of us used to live that way, **following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature**. By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else.

Pride: Satan's Signature Sin

- Pride caused Satan's fall
 - Ezekiel 28: 16b-17a
 - Isaiah 14: 12-15
- Pride caused our fall
 - Genesis 3: Discontent, deserving better
 - Calvin: *"Hence flowed ambition and pride, so that the woman first, and then her husband, desired to exalt themselves against God."*

Pride: Satan's Signature Sin

- Pride in the temptation of Christ
 - The Son of God should not go hungry.
 - You deserve to have your greatness and power displayed and appreciated.
 - You deserve to rule the world (omitting the cross).
- Augustine:

“Pride is the beginning of sin. And what is pride but the craving for undue exaltation? And this is undue exaltation - when the soul abandons Him to whom it ought to cleave as its end, and becomes a kind of end to itself.”

What Does Pride Look Like?

- Vanity – love of self
- Sense of entitlement, impatience
- Arrogance, hubris
- Desiring relevance, appreciation
- Dissatisfaction, complaining, demanding

Numbers 21: 4-5 (NLT)

⁴ Then the people of Israel set out from Mount Hor, taking the road to the Red Sea to go around the land of Edom. But the people grew impatient with the long journey, ⁵ and they began to speak against God and Moses. “Why have you brought us out of Egypt to die here in the wilderness?” they complained. “There is nothing to eat here and nothing to drink. And we hate this horrible manna!”

Stumbling Blocks

- ¹⁶For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

John 3:16-17 (ESV)

- ⁸God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. ⁹Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.

Ephesians 2:8- 9 (ESV)

Are We Now Dead to Pride?

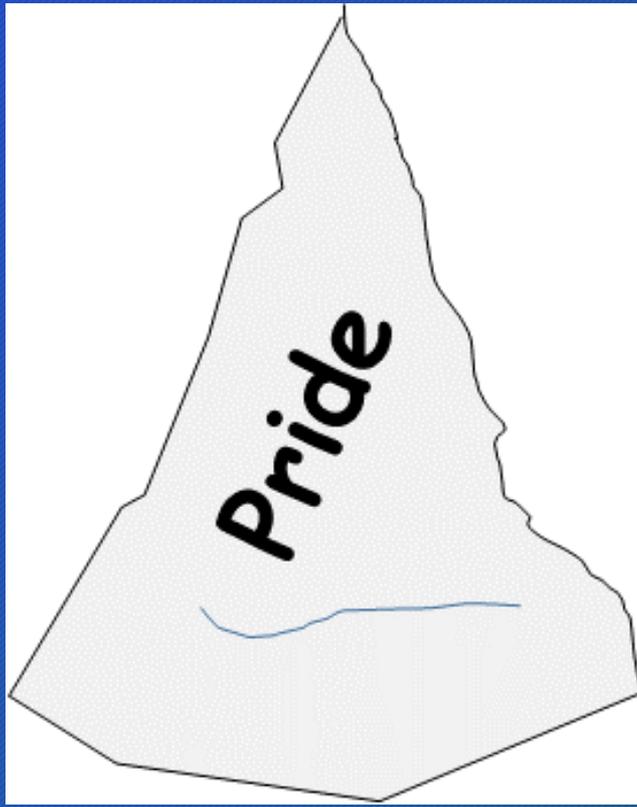
- ¹ Once you **were dead** because of your disobedience and your many sins. ² You **used to live in sin**, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world.
Ephesians 2:1-2 (NLT)
- ¹⁰For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.
Ephesians 2:10a (NLT)

Are We Now Dead to Pride?

²⁸I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.

John 10:28-29 (ESV)

My Pride



The Example of Humility

³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Philippians 2:3-8 (ESV)

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