A Matter of Pride

But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."

James 4:6

"...pride, most likely the chief of sins. Some even think that pride is the root of other sins. It well may be; as it leads to so many other particular offenses. Older commentators (Chaucer, p. 554, Canterbury Tales, London: J. M. Dent and Sons, 1958) spoke of pride as a "chief sin", in that other twigs grew from its fertile and fatal root. From pride, grow the branches of disobedience, vaunting, hypocrisy, defiance, Arrogance, Impudence, insolence, impatience, strife, presumption, irreverence, and others. Chaucer even divides pride into external and internal categories, and refers to it as the sin of "superfluity", an over-abounding, so as to bring fame to a person. Satan's first sin was characterized by and manifested itself in pride - perhaps the greatest sin. It always violates the first commandment - to have other gods before our Creator. Pride puts self before God. It seeks elevation above divinity.

Pride is willful arrogance, arrogating to yourself what is really God's. It is essentially a lust for power ... and it is far more prevalent than in rulers alone. Pride besets the commonest of people. It is no respecter of persons or position. In a power-centric society, pride is at the top of the list of sins.

Today, many of us are routinely tempted with pride. Much of our very environment seduces us with pride. It is a sin of which we should constantly be aware, and seek to restrain. If a person tells me they have no pride, then I know I'm dealing with a person who does not know himself very well, or else a person who is in dangerous denial.

Today, let's look at its biblical diagnosis, and seek a cure. We need a pride-ectomy, or at the very least, an antidote for it.

– Rev. Douglas Hall

Defining the Nature of Pride

1. Pride: arrogance, conceit, haughtiness, self-love
   a. Arrogance (1 Sam. 2:3; Psa. 12:4; 94:4; Prov. 8:13; 21:24; Isa. 13:11; Jn. 19:10)

   b. Conceit – overestimation of oneself, an exaggerated opinion of oneself (Job 15:8; 32:13; Prov. 3:7; 23:4; 26:5; 26:12; Eccl. 7:16; Isa. 5:21; Rom. 12:16; 1 Cor. 8:2)

2. The nature of pride:
   1 Sam. 15:23 –
   Prov. 21:4 –
   Prov. 21:24 –

3. According to Mark 7:21 and 1 John 2:16, from where does pride come? How does it show itself?
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4. Look up some of the biblical examples of pride. Write a brief sentence about each example:
   a. Ex. 5:2 – ___________________________
   b. Ex. 10:3 – ___________________________
   c. Ex. 18:11- ___________________________
   d. Deut. 8:14 - ___________________________
   e. 2 Kings 5:11 – ___________________________
   f. 2 Chron. 26:16 – ___________________________
   g. 2 Chron. 32:26 – ___________________________
   h. Esther 3:5 – ___________________________
   i. Isa. 10:18- ___________________________
   j. Isa. 14:13 – ___________________________
   k. Ezek. 28:2 – ___________________________
   l. Ezek. 28:5 – ___________________________
   m. Dan. 4:30 – ___________________________
   n. Dan. 5:23 – ___________________________
   o. Acts 12:23 – ___________________________

Summarize what you have learned about pride from these examples:
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**How does pride manifest and express itself?**
Read the verses under each statement or question and write out the conclusion.

1. Pride manifests itself in _______________________________________________________
   Phil. 2:21 –
   John 7:18 –
   James 3:14 –
   James 3:16 –
   1 Tim. 6:4 –

   **Practical exercise:**
   I manifest this trait of pride in my life in the following: My spouse says I manifest this trait in the following ways:
   □
   □
   □
   □
   □
   □
   □
   □
   □
   □

   (These are areas in my life that need to be repented of, confessed, sought forgiveness for, and worked on by replacing them with Christ-like opposites).

2. Pride also manifests itself in ___________________________________________________
   Psalm 94:4 –
   Psalm 17:10 –
   2 Peter 2:10 –
   Psalm 12:3 –

   **Practical exercise:**
   I manifest this trait of pride in my life in the following: My spouse says I manifest this trait in the following ways:
   □
   □
   □
   □
   □
   □

   (These are areas in my life that need to be repented of, confessed, sought forgiveness for, and worked on by replacing them with Christ-like opposites).
3. In the same manner, pride shows itself in ________________________________

Psalm 59:12 *For the sin of their mouth and the words of their lips, Let them even be taken in their pride, And for the cursing and lying which they speak.*

Psalm 119:69 -

Psalm 119:78 -

Psalm 40:4 -

**Practical exercise:**
I manifest this trait of pride in my life in the following: My spouse says I manifest this trait in the following ways:

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(These are areas in my life that need to be repented of, confessed, sought forgiveness for, and worked on by replacing them with Christ-like opposites).

4. Pride shows itself in what way according to the following verses? ______________________

Proverbs 13:10 –

Proverbs 28:25 –

**Practical exercise:** How is the true in your life?

5. Pride rejects something from God. What is it?
Psa. 119:21 –

6. What is so hideous about pride according to Obadiah 1:3?

**Practical exercise:**
I manifest this trait of pride in my life in the following: My spouse says I manifest this trait in the following ways:

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(These are areas in my life that need to be repented of, confessed, sought forgiveness for, and worked on by replacing them with Christ-like opposites).
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What are some results of pride?

Proverbs 11:2 –
Proverbs 16:18 –
Proverbs 29:23 –
Proverbs 21:24 –

How does a proud person view God according to Psalm 10:4?

How does God view pride?

Proverbs 8:13 The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way And the perverse mouth I hate.
Proverbs 14:3 –
Psalm 31:23 –
Psalm 101:5 –
Proverbs 15:25 The LORD will destroy the house of the proud,
Proverbs 16:5 –
Proverbs 21:4 –
James 4:6 –
Isa. 2:12 –

Summarize what you have learned about how God views pride, and how that affects you.
If you are a believer in Christ, how are to you view yourself?

Romans 12:3 –

Galatians 6:3 –

Phil. 2:3 –

What does God require of you as a Christian?

1 Cor. 10:24 –

Phil. 2:3,4 –

2 Cor. 5:15 –

Rom. 15:1 –

1 Cor. 13:5 –

How to make Biblical change
(see the study about putting off self and putting on Christ)

1. Recognize the fact that man is sinful, therefore you are sinful and pride is at the heart of it all.
   (a) Sin has covenantal and corporate aspects
       (1.1) Federal headship is real.
               Romans 5 – related to Adam and/or the Second Adam Christ
               1 Corinthians 5 –
       (1.2) Man is related to others. He is no lone island; therefore his sin affects others and is affected by others.

   (b) From Adam, we have polluted _____________________: man has a moral heart that is corrupt.
       The power of God’s Holy Spirit (the invasion of God Himself) is necessary to change that heart!
       
       Note: Man is not born good or innocent. There is no age of accountability.
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(c) Man’s sin has __________________ aspects:
   (1.1) Being a slave to sin is real.
   (1.2) Lifestyle sin is a reality. It is learned from forefathers.
      1 Peter 1:21 -
   (1.3) True change comes from God’s regenerative work, and the Holy Spirit’s work of changing sinful habits and patterns with Christ-like ones.
      Note: sin may look like addiction, but it is different.

(d) Man’s sin has conscious, ______________ aspects:
   (1.1) Willful acts occur; guilt is real.
      Romans 14:23 –
   (1.2) Willful acts of sin are personal acts of rebellion against the personal and holy God.
      Note: such acts are responsible acts.

2. You are in need of the Savior, Jesus Christ.
   a. Jesus Christ, the only God who became man.
      (1) Perfect, sinless mediator of the new, eternal covenant to bring sinful man back into a right relationship with God.
      (2) Jesus Christ is the true model man, the perfect standard or “norm.”

   b. Jesus Christ is the substitute
      (1) He lived and lives a perfect, sinless life.
      (2) He died a personal substitutionary death.
      (3) He is the only substitute
      Note: therefore, self-help approaches and techniques are no sufficient. Only the blood of Christ removes guilt of sin.

   c. Jesus Christ is the ascended Lord.
      (1) He rose from the dead and ascended into heaven, seated at the Father’s right hand
      (2) He conquered _____________________________
      (3) He sends God the Holy Spirit to change the hearts of those whom He calls His own.

3. You must submit with trusting obedience and obedient faithfulness to the Holy Spirit’s purpose.
   a. You are to believe, obey and grow.

   b. You must “incarnate” God’s teachings (Heb. 2:14-18).

   c. You must have the same goal that God does. What goal is that?
      1 Corinthians 5:9 –
      Matthew 5:48 -
4. You must rely upon the Holy Spirit exclusively.
   John 17:17 –
   2 Timothy 3:15-17 –

**Putting this into practice**

1. You must integrate change into all of your life. A total restructuring!
   a. Biblical change, by the Holy Spirit through God’s Word is
      (1) ____________________ – total in scope
      (2) ____________________ – progressively total in depth
         2 Corinthians 5:17 –
   b. Biblical change is to be monitored:
      (1) By self – having self-control is a fruit of the Spirit.
         (a) One must learn to live and practice this fruit.
         (b) One must also learn how to counsel self
            Psalm 42:5-11 –
            Psalm 43:5 –
      (2) By the Church
         (a) Local, personal and spiritual shepherding under the direction of pastor and elders
         (b) Local fellowship and encouragement
         (c) Through local service – serving others for Christ’s sake.

2. Biblical change comes about under the lordship of Jesus Christ as a total restructuring of life.
   a. All ____________________ are to be pure (2 Cor. 5:15), because God is judge and Savior.
      All of life must be for Jesus Christ out of reverent fear and gratitude (2 Cor. 5:11)
   b. All thoughts must conform to God’s thoughts (2 Cor. 5:16). Nothing can be interpreted the old, sinful way. Nothing can ever be interpreted neutrally. God’s way is the bottom line:
      1 Timothy 4:4-5 –
      Philippians 4:4-9
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c. All _________________ of a person’s life are included (2 Cor. 5:17)

d. All of life must be under self-control and disciplined.

1 Timothy 4:7-8 –

3. Biblical change comes about by putting off sin and putting on Christ.

a. According to Colossians 3:9-10, how does one do this?

b. In Ephesians 4:22-24, what methods does God give us for growing?

c. In Ephesians 4:25-32, there are five examples of putting off and putting on. What are they?

(1)
(2)
(3)
(4)
(5)

4. Given what you have learned about pride, list seven of the most blatant manifestations of pride in your life, then find from Scripture list the godly, humble opposites. Those are the things you must begin to work on by putting those sins off (repentance) and putting Christ on (faith-filled obedience).

a. a.
b. b.
c. c.
d. d.
e. e.
f. f.
g. g.

5. Here’s a more difficult exercise: given the list above, take each item and write out a plan for how (with the grace of God and the power of the Holy Spirit) you are going to implement biblical change.