

God Hates Pride

Pr 6:16 These six *things* doth the LORD hate: yea, seven *are* an abomination unto him: 17 A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, 18 An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, 19 A false witness *that* speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

Introduction:

1. When you get to know someone well, you find out what that person likes and dislikes
 - a. The more you love someone, then the more you want to please that person
 - b. That may involve avoiding the things that person dislikes
 - c. Vicky doesn't like certain restaurants
2. This passage lists some of the sins that God hates
 - a. If He hates these sins, then I should hate them and avoid them
 - b. This is not an exhaustive list of the sins that God hates - He hates all sin
 - c. These sins are singled out here because they wreak havoc in the lives of other people
3. At the top of this list is.... A proud look
 - a. Pr 16:5 Every one *that is* proud in heart *is* an abomination to the LORD: *though* hand *join* in hand, he shall not be unpunished.
 - b. Pr 21:4 An high look, and a proud heart, *and* the plowing of the wicked, *is* sin.
 - c. 2Ti 3:2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,
4. A proud look...
 - a. We have all seen a proud look in others

- b. At times we have seen that look in ourselves
- c. This is the attitude that over-evaluates self and under-evaluates others
- d. What we are we are because of God
 1. If you have a talent, it came from God
 2. If you have a spiritual gift, it came from God
5. So let's examine four reasons God hates pride.

I. PRIDE KEEPS PEOPLE FROM GOD - Ps 10:4

4 The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts.

A. Because of Pride the Wicked Do Not Turn to God

1. Because of pride, the wicked do not turn to God
2. "Pride is an anti-God state of mind." - C.S. Lewis
3. Pride says, "I can do without God. I can live without God. I am sufficient in myself. I'm good enough in myself."

B. The Pharisees are an Example of This

1. The Pharisees are an example of this
2. Jesus said, "You will not come to me for eternal life."
3. They didn't think they lacked anything - they were Pharisees after all - They thought that they were ok.
4. As far as they were concerned, they knew more than Jesus and they knew better than Jesus
5. Remember the account of the Pharisee and the Publican at the temple
 - a) *Hear the pride as the Pharisee prayed - Lu 18:11*

11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. 12 I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.

- b) *Contrast that with the publican - Lu 18:13*

13 And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as *his* eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.

Pride Keeps People from God....

II. PRIDE LEADS TO SELF-DECEPTION -- OB 1:2-3

2 Behold, I have made thee small among the heathen: thou art greatly despised. 3 The pride of thine heart hath deceived thee, thou that dwellest in the clefts of the rock, whose habitation *is* high; that saith in his heart, Who shall bring me down to the ground?

A. The Example of the Edomites

1. The capital city of Edom was Petra (rock)
 - a) *Petra was a fortress that was literally carved out of the sided of a mountain*
 - b) *The Edomites thought that they were invincible*
 - c) *“No one can conquer us.”*
 - d) *“Who shall brings me down?”*
2. They prided themselves that none of their enemies could get to them since they lived in this rocky fortress.
3. They thought that they were invincible but they were in the cleft of the wrong rock. The only place of security is the Lord Jesus Christ
 - a) *The pride of thine heart has deceived thee*
 - b) *They had deceived themselves thinking that no one could defeat them*

B. Pride Led to the Fall of Lucifer

Eze 28:15 Thou *wast* perfect in thy ways from the day that thou *wast* created, till iniquity was found in thee. 17 Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee.

Isa 14:12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! *how* art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! 13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. 15 Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

1. The prophet Ezekiel tells us that Lucifer's heart was lifted up in pride because of his beauty
 - a) *Lucifer was a glorious creation of God*
 - b) *He was beautiful - there was a splendor and brightness about him that was magnificent*
 - c) *He was consumed by his splendor*
 - d) *He should not have been proud of his beauty for he received it from the Lord - he didn't cause it himself*
2. It was pride that turned Lucifer, the archangel, into Satan
3. When the serpent in the garden tempted Eve he told her that if she would eat the fruit then she would be like the most high.

Pride Leads to Self-Deception....

III. PRIDE LEADS TO CONTENTION - PROV 13:10

10 Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised *is* wisdom.
Pr 28:25 He that is of a proud heart stirreth up strife: but he that putteth his trust in the LORD shall be made fat.
Pr 21:20 *There is* treasure to be desired and oil in the dwelling of the wise; but a foolish man spendeth it up.

1. When you find contention - look closely and you will see pride somewhere in there - pride in you - pride in me
2. Pride only produces evil fruit - pride cannot produce one good fruit
3. Find a critical spirit and you will find pride - no one can meet their expectations
4. Pride made the disciples dispute among themselves who would be the greatest

Mt 20:20 Then came to him the mother of Zebedee's children with her sons, worshipping *him*, and desiring a certain thing of him. 21 And he said unto her, What wilt thou? She saith unto him, Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on thy right hand, and the other on the left, in thy kingdom. 22 But Jesus answered and said, Ye know not what ye ask. Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? They say unto him, We are able. 23 And he saith unto them, Ye shall drink indeed of my cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with: but to sit on my right hand, and on my left, is not mine to give, but *it shall be given to them* for whom it is prepared of my Father. 24 And when the ten heard *it*, they were moved with indignation against the two brethren.

5. The captain of the ship looked into the dark night and saw a light off in the distance. Immediately the captain called for the signalman to send a message - "Alter your course 10 degrees south." Soon the reply came back - "Alter your course 10 degrees north." The furious captain send another message. "Alter your course 10 degrees south, I am a captain." Soon another reply was received, "Alter your course 10 degrees north, I am signalman 3rd class Jones." The captain sent a final message - "Alter your course 10 degrees south, I am a battleship." The reply was - "Alter your course 10 degrees south, I am a lighthouse."

Pride Leads to Contention...

IV. PRIDE LEADS TO DESTRUCTION - PROV 16:18

18 Pride *goeth* before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

Pr 29:23 A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.

A. **God Cut Nebuchadnezzar Down - Dan 4:30**

30 The king spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty? 31 While the word *was* in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, *saying*, O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; The kingdom is departed from thee. 32 And they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling *shall be* with the beasts of the field: they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and seven times shall pass over thee, until thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will. 33 The same hour was the thing fulfilled upon Nebuchadnezzar: and he was driven from men, and did eat grass as oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, till his hairs were grown like eagles' *feathers*, and his nails like birds' *claws*. 34 And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion *is* an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom *is* from generation to generation: 35 And all the inhabitants of the earth *are* reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and *among* the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou? 36 At the same time my reason returned unto me; and for the glory of my kingdom, mine honour and brightness returned unto me; and my counsellors and my lords sought unto me; and I was established in my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added unto me. 37 Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works *are* truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase.

B. **God Cut Herod Down - Acts 12:21**

21 And upon a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat upon his throne, and made an oration unto them. 22 And the people gave a shout, *saying*, *It is* the voice of a god, and not of a man. 23 And immediately

the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost.

1. It is the voice of a god and not of a man
2. Immediately the angel of the Lord smote him - eaten of worms
3. Josephus said that Herod's robes were woven with threads of silver so that when the sun shone on him it caused him to glisten. With the radiance of his clothing and the magnificence of his oration, Herod began to believe what the crowd was saying about him. Herod began to think that he was like God. The moment he thought that God smote. God will not share his glory with another.

Conclusion:

1. Beware of sinful pride in your own life
2. Don't let it destroy the relationships with your spouse or children, friends, brothers / sisters in Christ
3. When we are full of pride then we are strong in ourselves.
 - a. Paul was given the thorn in the flesh to keep him humble
 - b. God wanted Paul to be strong in the Lord
4. Don't let pride keep you from reconciling and seeking forgiveness
5. Pride will keep you from praying for those who hurt you and despitefully use you
6. Who has offended you that you won't talk to? Who has offended you that you won't look at?
7. Don't let pride keep you from humbling yourself and trusting Christ as Savior

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The idea for this series and much of the material that appears in this series was borrowed from my friend Jeff Arthur. He is pastor of the Elizabeth Baptist Church in Bancroft, WV. His sermons can be found on Sermonaudio.com.