



Proud Hearts Result In Worldliness

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Forward

We are sometimes partial in judging ourselves and our actions.

Many deceive themselves with a conceit that outward devotions will excuse unrighteousness.

Sin is the pride, the ambition, the glory, the joy, and the business of wicked men.

The really diligent employ foresight as well as labour.

While men seek wealth by unlawful practices, they seek death.

Injustice will return upon the sinner, and will destroy him here and for ever.

The way of mankind by nature is froward and strange.



Chapter 1



Proud Hearts

Psalm 73:7

Their eye bulges from fatness; the imaginations of their heart run riot.

Two strong themes wind their way through these verses:

- (1) The wicked prosper, leaving faithful people wondering why they bother to be good, and
- (2) The wealth of the wicked looks so inviting that faithful people may wish they could trade places.

But these two themes come to unexpected ends, for the wealth of the wicked suddenly loses its power at death and the rewards for the good suddenly take on eternal value. What seemed like wealth is now waste and what seemed worthless now lasts forever.

Don't wish you could trade places with evil people to get their wealth. One day they will wish they could trade places with you and have your eternal wealth.

The heart of man is haughty

Proverbs 18:12

Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, but humility goes before honor.

Proverbs is direct and forceful in rejecting pride. The proud attitude heads the list of seven things God hates (Prov. 6:16-17). The harmful results of pride are constantly contrasted with humility and its benefits.

The Result of Pride leads to:

Disgrace:

Proverbs 11:12

It is foolish to belittle a neighbor; a person with good sense remains silent.

Quarrels:

Proverbs 13:10

Pride leads to arguments; those who take advice are wise.

Punishment:

Proverbs 16:5

The Lord despises pride; be assured that the proud will be punished.

Destruction:

Proverbs 16:18

Pride goes before destruction, and haughtiness before a fall.

Downfall:

Proverbs 18:12

Haughtiness goes before destruction; humility precedes honor.

Brings one low:

Proverbs 29:23

Pride ends in humiliation, while humility brings honor.

The lamp of the wicked is sin.

Proverbs 21:4

A high look, and a proud heart, and the plowing of the wicked, is sin.

Moab exalted himself**Jeremiah 48:29**

“We have heard of the pride of Moab—he is very proud—of his haughtiness, his pride, his arrogance and his self-exaltation.

Moab was condemned for its pride. God cannot tolerate pride because pride is taking personal credit for what God has done or looking down on others. God does not condemn our taking satisfaction in what we do (Eccles. 3:22), but he stands against overestimates of our own importance. Romans 12:3 teach us to have an honest estimate of ourselves.

An arrogant heart has deceived you.

Jeremiah 49:16

“As for the terror of you, The arrogance of your heart has deceived you, O you who live in the clefts of the rock, Who occupy the height of the hill Though you make your nest as high as an eagle’s, I will bring you down from there,” declares the LORD.

Edom was located in a rock fortress that today is known as Petra, in southern Jordan. Edom thought it was invincible because of its location. Edom was destroyed because of her pride. Pride destroys individuals as well as nations. It makes us think we can take care of ourselves without God’s help.

Even serving God and others can lead us into pride. Take inventory of your life and service for God; ask God to point out and remove any pride you may be harboring.

You are a man and not God.

Ezekiel 28:2-17

“Son of man, say to the leader of Tyre, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD, “Because your heart is lifted up And you have said, ‘I am a god, I sit in the seat of gods

In the heart of the seas’; yet you are a man and not God, although you make your heart like the heart of God—Behold, you are wiser than Daniel; there is no secret that is a match for you. “By your wisdom and understanding you have acquired riches for he==yourself.

Daniel, an important official in Nebuchadnezzar’s kingdom (Ezekiel 14:14), was already renowned for his wisdom. Daniel proclaimed that all his wisdom came from God (Daniel 2:20-23).

Chapter 2



Pride and arrogance

Psalm 119:69-70

The arrogant have forged a lie against me; with all my heart I will observe your precepts. Their heart is covered with fat, but I delight in your law.

The lamp of the wicked is sin.

Proverbs 21:4

Haughty eyes and a proud heart, the lamp of the wicked, is sin.

Faithful completion of mundane tasks is a great accomplishment. Such work is patiently carried out according to a plan. Diligence does not come naturally to most people; it is a result of strong character. Don't look for quick and easy answers. Be a diligent servant of God

The arrogance of your heart has made you small.

Obadiah 1:1-3

The vision of Obadiah. Thus says the Lord GOD concerning Edom—we have heard a report from the LORD, and an envoy has been sent among the nations saying, “Arise and let us go against her for battle” —“Behold, I will make you small among the nations; you are greatly despised. “The arrogance of your heart has deceived you, you who live in the clefts of the rock, in the loftiness of your dwelling place, who say in your heart, ‘Who will bring me down to earth?’

Obadiah was a prophet from Judah who told of God’s judgment against the nation of Edom. Two commonly accepted dates for this prophecy are (1) between 853 and 841 B.C., when King Jehoram and Jerusalem were attacked by a Philistine/Arab coalition (2 Chron. 21:16ff), or (2) 586 B.C., when Jerusalem was completely destroyed by the Babylonians (2 Kings 25; 2 Chron. 36). Edom had rejoiced over the misfortunes of both Israel and Judah, and yet the Edomites and Jews descended from two brothers—Esau and Jacob (Genesis 25:19-26). But just as these two brothers were constantly fighting, so were Israel and Edom. God pronounced judgment on Edom for their callous and malicious actions toward his people.

Edom was Judah’s southern neighbor, sharing a common boundary. But neighbors are not always friends, and Edom liked nothing about Judah. Edom’s capital at this time was Sela (perhaps the later city of Petra), a city considered impregnable because it was cut into rock cliffs and set in a canyon that could be entered only through a narrow gap.

What Edom perceived as its strengths would be its downfall:

- (1) Safety in their city (Obadiah 1:3-4)—God would send them plummeting from the heights;
- (2) Pride in their self-sufficiency (Obadiah 1:4)—God would humble them;
- (3) Wealth (Obadiah 1:5-6)—thieves would steal all they had;
- (4) Allies (Obadiah 1:7)—God would cause them to turn against Edom;
- (5) Wisdom (Obadiah 1:8-9)—the wise would be destroyed.

The Edomites felt secure, and they were proud of their self-sufficiency. But they were fooling themselves because there is no lasting security apart from God. Is your security in objects or people?

Ask yourself how much lasting security they really offer. Possessions and people can disappear in a moment, but God does not change. Only he can supply true security.

The Lord has proven his greatness.

Exodus 18:11

“Now I know that the LORD is greater than all the gods; indeed, it was proven when they dealt proudly against the people.”

Moses told his father-in-law that all God had done, convincing him that the Lord was greater than any other god. Our relatives are often the hardest people to tell about God. Yet we should look for opportunities to tell them what God is doing in our lives because we can have an important influence on them.

When God spoke, you would not listen

Deuteronomy 1:43

“So I spoke to you, but you would not listen. Instead you rebelled against the command of the LORD, and acted presumptuously and went up into the hill country.

Our fathers acted arrogantly.

Nehemiah 9:16

“But they, our fathers, acted arrogantly; they became stubborn and would not listen to your commandments.

Seeing how God continued to be with his people shows that his patience is amazing! In spite of our repeated failings, pride, and stubbornness, he is always ready to pardon (Neh. 9:17), and his Spirit is always ready to instruct (Neh. 9:20).

Realizing the extent of God’s forgiveness helps us forgive those who fail us, even “seventy-seven times” if necessary (Matthew 18:21-22).

You acted arrogantly and would not listen.

Nehemiah 9:29

And admonished them in order to turn them back to Your law Yet they acted arrogantly and did not listen to Your commandments but sinned against Your ordinances, By which if a man observes them he shall live And they turned a stubborn shoulder and stiffened their neck, and would not listen.

Israel was devastated by times of intense rebellion and sin. Yet when the people repented and returned to God, he delivered them. God puts no limit on the number of times we can come to him to obtain mercy, but we must *come* in order to obtain it, recognizing our need and asking him for help.

This miracle of grace should inspire us to say, “You are a gracious and merciful God!” If there is a recurring problem or difficulty in your life, continue to ask God for help, and be willing and ready to make changes in your attitude and behavior that will correct that situation.

Your heart has become proud

2 Kings 14:10

“You have indeed defeated Edom, and your heart has become proud. Enjoy your glory and stay at home; for why should you provoke trouble so that you, even you, would fall, and Judah with you?”

In this parable, Judah is compared to a small thistle. King Amaziah of Judah had become proud after defeating the Edomites. Here he was trying to pick a fight with Israel because he was sure his army was stronger.

Jehoash tried to warn Amaziah not to attack by comparing his army to a thistle and Israel’s army to a cedar tree. Amaziah had overrated his strength; his ambition was greater than his ability. He didn’t listen to Jehoash and was soundly defeated.

Some have become arrogant.

1 Corinthians 4:18

Now some have become arrogant, as though I were not coming to you.

Some people talk a lot about faith, but that's all it is—talk. They may know all the right words to say, but their lives don't reflect God's power. Paul says that the kingdom of God is to be *lived*, not just discussed.

There is a big difference between knowing the right words and living them out. Don't be content to have the right answers about Christ. Let your life show that God's power is really working in you.

Chapter 3



Arrogance is shown in pride.

Isaiah 9:9

And all the people know it, That is, Ephraim and the inhabitants of Samaria, Asserting in pride and in arrogance of heart:

Pride made Israel think it would recover and rebuild in its own strength. Even though God made Israel a nation and gave them the land they occupied, the people put their trust in themselves rather than in him. Too often we take pride in our accomplishments, forgetting that it is God who has given us our every resource and ability. We may even become proud of our unique status as Christians. God is not pleased with *any* pride or trust in ourselves because it cuts off our contact with him.

God removed the proud.

Ezekiel 16:50

"Thus they were haughty and committed abominations before Me Therefore I removed them when I saw it.

The city of Sodom, a symbol of total corruption, was completely destroyed by God for its wickedness (Genesis 19:24-25). Samaria, the capital of what had been the northern kingdom (Israel), was despised and rejected by the Jews in Judah. To be called a sister of Samaria and Sodom was bad enough, but to be called *more depraved* than that meant that Judah's sins were an unspeakable abomination and that its doom was inevitable.

The reason it was considered worse was not necessarily that Judah's sins were worse, but that Judah knew better. In that light, we who live in an age when God's message is made clear to us through the Bible are worse than Judah if we continue in sin! (See also Matthew 11:20-24.

The arrogant boast of the pride are false.

Isaiah 16:6

We have heard of the pride of Moab, an excessive pride; Even of his arrogance, pride, and fury; His idle boasts are false.

Diotrephes wanted to be first.

3 John 1:9

I wrote something to the church; but Diotrephes, who loves to be first among them, does not accept what we say.

All we know about Diotrephes is that he wanted to control the church.

John denounced

- (1) His refusal to have anything to do with other spiritual leaders,
- (2) His slander of the leaders,
- (3) His bad example in refusing to welcome any gospel teachers, and
- (4) His attempt to excommunicate those who opposed his leadership.

Sins such as pride, jealousy, and slander are still present in the church, and when a leader makes a habit of encouraging sin and discouraging right actions, he must be stopped. If no one speaks up, great harm can come to the church. We must confront sin in the church; if we try to avoid it, it will continue to grow. A true Christian leader is a servant, not an autocrat!

The arrogant one will be removed from your midst.

1 Corinthians 5:2

You have become arrogant and have not mourned instead, so that the one who had done this deed would be removed from your midst.

Let not the foot of pride come upon me.

Psalm 36:11

Let not the foot of pride come upon me, and let not the hand of the wicked drive me away.

You have multiplied your words against God.

Ezekiel 35:13

"And you have spoken arrogantly against me and have multiplied your words against me; I have heard it."

The false God will magnify himself above all.

Daniel 11:37

"He will show no regard for the gods of his fathers or for the desire of women, nor will he show regard for any other god; for he will magnify himself above them all.

These verses could refer to Antiochus IV Epiphanes, Titus (the Roman general), or the antichrist. Some of these events may have been fulfilled in the past, and some have yet to be fulfilled.

The “one desired by women” may refer to Tammuz, a Babylonian fertility god. Tammuz is also mentioned in Ezekiel 8:14. In other words, this person won't recognize any deity or religions at all, not even pagan ones. Instead, he will proclaim himself to be divine and the ultimate power.

The false God will cause deceit to succeed.

Daniel 8:25

"And through his shrewdness He will cause deceit to succeed by his influence; and he will magnify himself in his heart, and he will destroy many while they are at ease. He will even oppose the Prince of princes, but he will be broken without human agency.

This Prince of princes is God himself. No human power could defeat the king whom Daniel saw in his vision, but God would bring him down. Antiochus IV Epiphanes reportedly went insane and died in Persia in 164 B.C. God's power and justice will prevail, so we should never give up our faith or lose hope, no matter how powerful God's enemies may seem.

The king will exalt and magnify himself.

Daniel 11:36

"Then the king will do as he pleases, and he will exalt and magnify himself above every god and will speak monstrous things against the God of gods; and he will prosper until the indignation is finished, for that which is decreed will be done.

These verses could refer to Antiochus IV Epiphanes, Titus (the Roman general), or the antichrist. Some of these events may have been fulfilled in the past, and some have yet to be fulfilled.

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Their heart became proud and they forgot God.

Hosea 13:6

As they had their pasture, they became satisfied, and being satisfied, their heart became proud; therefore they forgot me.

When abundant possessions made Israel feel self-sufficient, it turned its back on God and forgot him. Self-sufficiency is as destructive today as it was in Hosea's time. Do you see your constant need of God's presence and help? Learn to rely on God both in good times and bad.

If you are traveling along a smooth and easy path right now, beware of forgetting who gave you your good fortune. Don't depend on your gifts; depend on the Giver. See Deut. 6:10-12 and Deut. 8:7-20 for God's warning.

The righteous will live by faith.

Habakkuk 2:4

"Behold, as for the proud one, His soul is not right within him; but the righteous will live by his faith.

The wicked Babylonians trusted in themselves and would fall; but the righteous live by their faith and trust in God. This verse has inspired countless Christians. Paul quotes it in Romans 1:17 and Galatians 3:11.

The writer of Hebrews quotes it in Habakkuk 10:38, just before the famous chapter on faith. And it is helpful to all Christians who must live through difficult times without seeing signs of hope. Christians must trust that God is directing all things according to his purposes.

Perhaps there will be many disturbances.

2 Corinthians 12:20

For I am afraid that perhaps when I come I may find you to be not what I wish and may be found by you to be not what you wish; that perhaps there will be strife, jealousy, angry tempers, disputes, slanders, gossip, arrogance, disturbances;

After reading this catalog of sins, it is hard to believe that these are the people that Paul said possessed great gifts and excelled as leaders (2 Cor. 8:7). Paul feared that the practices of wicked Corinth had invaded the congregation. He wrote sternly, hoping that they would straighten out their lives before he arrived. We must live differently than unbelievers, not letting secular society dictate how we are to treat others. Don't let culture invade your practices at church.

The anti-Christ will speak blasphemies.

Revelation 13:5

There was given to him a mouth speaking arrogant words and blasphemies, and authority to act for forty-two months was given to him.

The power given to the beast will be limited by God. He will allow the beast to exercise authority only for a short time. Even while the beast is in power, God will still be in control (Rev. 11:15; Rev. 12:10-12).

God will turn him back by the way he came.

2 Kings 19:28

'Because of your raging against Me, And because your arrogance has come up to My ears, Therefore I will put My hook in your nose, And My bridle in your lips, And I will turn you back by the way which you came.

They had become arrogant against the Holy one of Israel.

God will destroy him who slanders his neighbor

Psalm 101:5

Whoever secretly slanders his neighbor, him I will destroy; No one who has a haughty look and an arrogant heart will I endure.

The pride of Israel testifies against him.

Hosea 5:5

Moreover, the pride of Israel testifies against him, And Israel and Ephraim stumble in their iniquity; Judah also has stumbled with them.

They have not sought the Lord.

Hosea 7:10

Though the pride of Israel testifies against him, yet they have not returned to the LORD their God, nor have they sought Him, for all this.

Arrogance (pride) keeps a person from returning to God because arrogance acknowledges no need of help from anyone, human or divine. Pride intensifies all our other sins because we cannot repent of any of them without first giving up our pride.

The Lord is knocking at your hearts door.



Rev. 3:20

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

To ask Jesus to come into your heart please pray this Prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, I believe you are the Christ, the Son of the Living God. I ask you to forgive me of my sins and coming into my heart. I accept you as savior and will follow you as Lord. Amen.

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