

Danger of Comparisons

Lesson 4– Pride

June 21, 2015

A. Scriptures for Lesson:

Isaiah 2:6-12

6 You, Lord, have abandoned your people, the descendants of Jacob. They are full of superstitions from the East; they practice divination like the Philistines and embrace pagan customs. 7 Their land is full of silver and gold; there is no end to their treasures. Their land is full of horses; there is no end to their chariots. 8 Their land is full of idols; they bow down to the work of their hands, to what their fingers have made. 9 So people will be brought low and everyone humbled— do not forgive them. 10 Go into the rocks, hide in the ground from the fearful presence of the Lord and the splendor of his majesty! 11 The eyes of the arrogant will be humbled and human pride brought low; the Lord alone will be exalted in that day. 12 The Lord Almighty has a day in store for all the proud and lofty, for all that is exalted (and they will be humbled),

B. Dangers of Comparisons Leading to Pride:

Pride in the Greek, *huperephanos*, which means "to show oneself above."

- It does not imply or mean that others look up to, but one who stands on **his own self-created pedestal**.
- Pride is actually a mark of inner inferiority and uncertainty
 - Such people compensate by over-emphasizing and flaunting the qualities they think they possess that will cause others to think well of them

Pride has its roots in a feeling of greatness, wealth of something, being special or accomplishment.

- "Wealth" does not necessarily mean money, Lucifer had his intelligence, beauty, and power
- It could be other things like position, skill, natural ability, social status, knowledge, strength, appearance, beauty, clothing, a house, or an automobile; it could be endless.

This feeling of wealth or strength in a given area is highly relative

- Each person can set his own standard of comparison, regardless of his real accomplishments.
- Sad reality of pride: In many cases, the person actually somewhat delusion in comparing their own perceived accomplishment, skill or position.

Ezekiel 28:17-19

17 Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So I threw you to the earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings. 18 By your many sins and dishonest trade you have desecrated your sanctuaries. So I made a fire come out from you, and it consumed you, and I reduced you to ashes on the ground in the sight of all who were watching. 19 All the nations who knew you are appalled at you; you have come to a horrible end and will be no more.

First recorded [sin](#) in all of God's creation involved [pride](#).

- What Lucifer thought about himself was the overall cause of his downfall
- Pride corrupts the wisdom that should have kept him from falling
- Pride blinds you to your own existence
- Your good looks, brains, skill, and power can get to you. Do not allow your very gifts and strengths deceive you into misjudging your value in comparison to others
- Remember that all things are made and provided from God and not done by yourself.

Luke 18:9-14

9 To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: 10 “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’ 13 “But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’ 14 “I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.

Notice [Jesus](#)' teaching in verse 9:

- Parable written to those who trusted in themselves that they were “righteous”, and despised others
- *Despised* means "to count as nothing" or "to be contemptuous of."
- [Pride](#) finds fertile ground in our process of evaluation and begins to produce corrupt fruit.

The Pharisees possessed a misguided confidence that caused them to magnify self.

- Comparing to others they felt to be inferior, feeding our own opinion of self, causing separation from his fellow man.
- Pride and separation from our fellow man will result in war with God and separation
- The Pharisee's pride deluded him into thinking he had a righteousness he did not really possess. His [prayer](#) is full of self-congratulation, and like a circle, it keeps him firmly at its center
- Take notice all the *I*'s in [Luke 18:11-12](#) with no thanksgiving for what God had given him or no praise to God's glory. He asks for nothing, confesses nothing, and receives nothing!
- Filled with conceit and is totally unaware of it

The humble publican did not delude himself into thinking he was righteous. What made the difference? It was ***a true evaluation and recognition of the self in relation to God, not other men. The basis of their evaluations—pride or humility—made a startling difference in their conclusions, revealing each man's attitudes*** about himself and his motivations.

C. Questions for Small Group Discussion:

1. Discuss how the root of pride has its origin in self and making us feel like something special?
2. Do you believe pride actually shows the mark of inner inferiority? Some type of uncertainty?
3. Can you have the proper Godly relationship with any individual if we are filled with pride and contentment towards them?
4. Why do you believe the first recorded sin with Satan was essentially created by Pride?
5. Discuss why Pride corrupts your ability to spiritual wisdom? What affect does it have on our ability to tap into God's power and relationship?
6. Think of something you are really good at; How do we prevent ourselves from becoming prideful?
7. Discuss why Prideful in the parable of the Pharisees is equivalent to despising those we are comparing to?
8. Discuss why the “Humble Publican” is the most important part of this lesson and what applications we should draw as we leave the room today?