

Danger of Comparisons

Lesson 5– Pride

June 28, 2015

A. Quick Review

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

- "Wealth" does not necessarily mean money' it could be other things like position, skill, natural ability, social status, knowledge, strength, appearance, beauty, clothing, a house, etc

Other important points:

- Pride corrupts your wisdom and blinds you
- Do not allow your very gifts and strengths to deceive you into misjudging your value
- Remember that all things are made and provided from God and not done by yourself (stewardship).
- ***True evaluation and recognition of the self in relation to God, not other men. The basis of your evaluation should be humility, not pride.***

B. Scriptures for Lesson:

1 Corinthians 5:1-2

1 It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that even pagans do not tolerate: A man is sleeping with his father's wife. 2 And you are proud! Shouldn't you rather have gone into mourning and have put out of your fellowship the man who has been doing this?

The Corinthians were continually comparing themselves to each other:

- Pride caused them to take sin lightly
- Pride produced complacency due to a perverse sense of comparison making us better than others
- While the humble would be filled with shame, remorse and grief; The proud hardly stirred any remorseful emotion
- Corinthians let their pride interfere with their ability to perceive sin

2 Corinthians 10:12-17

12 We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise. 13 We, however, will not boast beyond proper limits, but will confine our boasting to the sphere of service God himself has assigned to us, a sphere that also includes you. 14 We are not going too far in our boasting, as would be the case if we had not come to you, for we did get as far as you with the gospel of Christ.... 17 But, "Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord."

Comparing among themselves caused:

- Many of the Corinthians were graphic examples of [pride](#) and complacency. It was so deeply ingrained in their human nature to evaluate ourselves by human standards.
- A professing Christian who, in his own eyes, sets himself up as the standard of righteousness, will compare himself to others who appear to him to be less spiritual than himself.
- His views are the standard of righteousness, and his ways of worship are the models of proper devotion. He looks on himself as the true measure of spirituality, humility, and zeal, and he condemns others for failing to rise to his level. He judges everything by his own benchmark: himself.

1 Peter 5:5

5 In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble." 6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. 7 Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

Humility has its basis in an honest and realistic comparison of us with God. To compare ourselves with other people always allows us a great deal of wiggle room because we can always find flaws in other people's character

- Our goal is to be in the image of God; We will always come out on the short end of the stick. We are woefully poor (poor of spirit) of any value, any quality or characteristic. We fall so far short of His [holiness](#) that it knocks the props right out from under any idea we might have to take [pride](#) in ourselves.
- If we are striving to be like Him, to walk in His steps, to be in His image, this comparison gives us a much more realistic foundation to work from. It is a wonderful attitude adjuster.
- We should *never* get the idea that the humble are weak. Paradoxically, they are among the strongest of all people on earth! It all depends on one's perspective. From God's perspective, these people are strong, while from a human perspective, it depends on whom they want to impress.
- Humility's dominant thrust is its willingness to submit to God and to what is right and true. Our level of humility sets the tone of our relationship with God and others. In both cases, that is, with God and man, the humble esteem the other better than themselves. This quality will guard the unity of the spirit.

C. Questions for Small Group Discussion:

1. Discuss why pride seems to generate complacency toward sin? What is this about?
2. Describe why and how pride interferes with our ability to see our address sin?
3. Discuss the 2 Corinthians scripture that says "*will not boast beyond proper limits, but will confine our boasting to the sphere of service God himself has assigned to us, a sphere that also includes you*"; What does this mean and what is it referring too?
4. From 1 Peter 5:5, why is it so hard for us to be humble?
5. How does today's society typically view a humble person? Is it driven by strength or weakness; expand?
6. Discuss your willingness to submit? Do you feel your will to submit is directly related with our humility? Can we be humble if we are not submissive spiritually?