

The Faces of Pride

Isaiah 14:12-17

Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life.

Proverbs 4:23

I. Defining Pride - Root meanings

1. Hebrew and Greek roots: "high, lifted up, rise lofty, exalted"
2. Pride involves self-exultation, haughtiness, conceit, and presumption
3. "Thinking more highly of yourself than you ought to" Romans 12:3

II. Pride and sinfulness

1. Is pride the root of essence of all sin?
2. Pride is self-orientation, contrary to character of God
3. Every person has developed patterns of pride

III. Positive and negative senses of "pride"

1. Positive - high opinion of God and what HE has done
 - Romans 15:17 - "reason for boasting in things of God"
 - II Corinthians 1:12 - "proud confidence...in the grace of God"
 - II Corinthians 10:17 - "boast in the Lord"
2. Negative - high opinion of oneself: egocentricity
 - Romans 12:16 - "haughty in mind"
 - Philippians 2:3-4 - "selfishness, empty conceit...personal interests"

IV. Various forms of "pride"

- a. Self-admiration - Look at me!
 1. Natural - my abilities, talents, assets
 2. Spiritual - my spiritual gifts, my ministry
- b. Self-aggrandizement - "Don't I look good/great?"
 1. Natural - my looks, my importance
 2. Spiritual - my position in the church
- c. Self-attention - "listen to me!"
 1. Natural - my understanding and viewpoint
 2. Spiritual - my Biblical and theological knowledge
- d. Self-justification - I am right!
 1. Natural - my way is the right way
 2. spiritual - our doctrine is right

- e. Self-sufficiency - I can do it!
 - 1. Natural - my abilities, my leadership
 - 2. Spiritual - our program will make it happen
- f. Self-aspiration - Let me win!
 - 1. Natural - competitive spirit; one-upsmanship
 - 2. Spiritual - our statistics will prove our success
- g. Self-seeking - Give me mine!
 - 1. Natural - my rights, what I deserve
 - 2. Spiritual - our physical rights and our physical edifice
- h. Self-exaltation - praise me!
 - 1. Natural - my credit, glory and commendation
 - 2. Spiritual - our procedures and our success

V. Results of pride

- A. Contention - Proverbs 13:10, Proverbs 28:25
- B. Dishonor - Proverbs 11:2
- C. Not right with God - Habakkuk 2:4
- D. Denies God - Psalm 10:3,4
- E. Humiliation - Proverbs 16:18; Proverbs 29:23; Isaiah 2:11; Jeremiah 13:15-17

VI. Antithesis (opposite) of pride

- A. Humility - Romans 12:13; Philippians 2:3; James 4:6; I Peter 5:5-6
- B. Boast in the Lord - Jeremiah 9:23-24; I Corinthians 1:31; II Corinthians 10:17