

A Proud Look

Proverbs 6:17

Introduction: Thomas Adam declared, “*Pride thrust Nebuchadnezzar out of men’s society, Saul out of his kingdom, Adam out of paradise, Haman out of court, and Lucifer out of heaven.*” It is no wonder that Augustine named pride as the greatest of all sins, pointing out that when man is proud he exalts himself and displaces God. Defoe spoke of pride as the first pier and president of hell. Alexander Pope said that pride was the never-failing vice of fools. C. S. Lewis calls pride the complete anti-God state of mind. Pride is such an insidious thing. It invades every facet of a person’s life. One can be proud of himself, proud of his accomplishments, proud of his possessions, proud of his people, proud of his race, proud of his nation in such a way as to take the glory away from God. We can even be proud of our humility! You have heard of the man who was given a medal for his humility and then had it taken from him because he wore it!

I. What Is Pride?

- A. Word used in Old Testament means “*arrogancy, excellency (-lent), majesty, pomp, pride, proud, swelling*” (Strong). Word used in New Testament indicates “*appearing above others (conspicuous), i.e. (fig.) haughty:--proud*” (Strong).
- B. Used In Bible in two senses:
 1. The good sense. In this sense, pride is synonymous with self-respect and personal dignity. Such is admirable and necessary (**Matt 22:39**). We must avoid self-contempt. Thus, let us never reason, “I’m a nobody.” He who has no self-respect demands no respect from others.
 2. The bad sense. In this sense, pride is synonymous with self-esteem, self-importance, arrogance and all such similar vices. This is the pride that Webster defines as, “*the quality or state of being proud: as inordinate, self-esteem: conceit.*”
 3. Let us make sure that the pride that we possess is the kind that keeps the chin and head up while keeping the nose down!
 4. Notice the company pride keeps (**2 Tim. 3:1-5**).

II. Where Pride Originates.

- A. Pride comes from within (**Mk. 7:21-23**).
- B. From within comes our actions (**Prov. 4:23**).

III. Various Forms Of Pride.

- A. Spiritual pride.
 1. The Scribes were guilty of pride in this form (**Mk 12:38-39**), as was the Pharisee (**Lk 18:10-14**).

2. Spiritual pride causes one to trust his own virtues rather than the grace of God and the blood of Christ (*Eph 2:8-10*).
- B.** Intellectual pride.
1. Paul calls it being “*puffed up*” (*1 Cor 8:1-2*).
 2. This kind of pride causes one to look down with disdain on the unlearned, illiterate, oppressed, poor and down-trodden. It causes one to look down on one’s parents as out-of-date ignoramuses and on the elders back home as “back-woods” types. It forgets that all of our mental capabilities are derived from God. True knowledge begets humility, not conceit and contempt. In contrast, some are proud of their ignorance. However, there is no premium on ignorance (*Acts 17:30*).
- C.** Pride of material things.
1. This pride causes one to trust in his material possessions, talking of me, my and mine, while forgetting that all material blessings flow from God.
 2. This is the pride that will cause one to strut his expensive suit, show exuberantly his credit card and drive his flashy automobile. A study of these texts will cure this kind of pride. By way of antithesis, we need to avoid being proud of our poverty. Alan Isbell tells of Socrates telling Diogenes, who lived in a tub and dressed in rags, “*I see your vanity through the holes in your cloak.*”
- D.** Social pride.
1. This pride will manifest itself in class, racial and caste arrogance.
 2. This is the pride that will cause one to refuse to, or with reluctance, sit by a person who is poor, inexpensively dressed, or who has a menial occupation (*James 2:1-9*).

IV. The Proud Look.

- A.** ASV has “*haughty eyes.*”
- B.** **The Expositor’s Bible Commentary** has “*refers to a proud look suggesting arrogant ambition.*”
- C.** The possessor of the proud look sets all others at naught while elevating self. This is a person who only has personal ambition at heart. There is no humility present. The peace and unity of a local church is seen as an obstacle which the proud look seeks to savagely attack. Frequently attacked are those who are walking in the light and humbly serving God. **You will know them by their fruits.**
- D.** Must strive to eliminate the proud look.
1. Though commended and held high by others, it is all for naught without the Lord’s commendation (*2 Cor. 10:12, 18*).
 2. When one truly strives to be humble, pride not appear (*James 4:6*).
 3. No place for “humble pride.” Oxymoronic. Doesn’t exist except in some “puffed up” imaginations.

Conclusion: Here are some appropriate verses: *Prov. 15:33; 18:12; 22:4; 29:23*. Did you notice that “*honor*” is mentioned in connection with humility, not with the haughty?