

Ephesians 4:2

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

Philippians 2:3-4

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. ⁴Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Colossians 3:12

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

James 4:10

Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

B. Benefits of Humility

Psalms 34:2

My soul will boast in the LORD; let the afflicted hear and rejoice.

Psalms 69:32

The poor will see and be glad--you who seek God, may your hearts live!

Proverbs 3:34

He mocks proud mockers but gives grace to the humble.

Isaiah 57:15

For this is what the high and lofty One says-- he who lives forever, whose name is holy: "I live in a high and holy place, but also with him who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite.

Luke 14:11

For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

James 4:6

But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

C. Related Passages on Humility

Deuteronomy 8:2

Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the desert these forty years, to humble you and to test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands.

- God may allow a wilderness experience to humble a person

2 Chronicles 33:12

In his distress he sought the favor of the LORD his God and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers.

- Affliction may cause us to humble ourselves

Psalms 35:13

Yet when they were ill, I put on sackcloth and humbled myself with fasting. When my prayers returned to me unanswered,

- Fasting will demonstrate humility

Luke 18:14

"I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

- Humility is an act of the will

Philippians 2:8

And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross!

- Jesus, by an act of His will, humbled Himself

1 Peter 5:5-7

Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because,

"God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

⁶Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. ⁷Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

- Humility towards God and men is demonstrated by an attitude of submission and prayerfully giving our cares to God

D. Summary on Humility

God is humble. This one fact should bring low the mind of every man. For if anyone should have a 'right' to be proud it would be God Himself; yet He is humble. What has man to be proud of? What do we have that did not originate outside of ourselves?

To be humbled is the only way to grow in grace. God promises to exalt the humble. God may allow a wilderness experience to humble a person. Humility is the key to greatness in the Kingdom of God. It leads to serving others. Humility may be demonstrated by casting your cares and anxieties on Christ.

II. Pride

A. Causes of Pride

2 Kings 20:13 - Possessions

Hezekiah received the messengers and showed them all that was in his storehouses--the silver, the gold, the spices and the fine oil--his armory and everything found among his treasures. There was nothing in his palace or in all his kingdom that Hezekiah did not show them.

Isaiah 14:12-17 - Desires prompted by Satan

How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! ¹³You said in your heart, "I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. ¹⁴I will ascend above the tops of the clouds;

I will make myself like the Most High." ¹⁵But you are brought down to the grave, to the depths of the pit. ¹⁶Those who see you stare at you, they ponder your fate: "Is this the man who shook the earth and made kingdoms tremble, ¹⁷the man who made the world a desert, who overthrew its cities and would not let his captives go home?"

Luke 18:11 - Unwillingness to Humble Ourselves

The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men--robbers, evildoers, adulterers--or even like this tax collector.

1 Corinthians 8:1 - Knowledge

Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that we all possess knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up.

1 Timothy 3:6 - Immaturity in the Faith

He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil.

B. Results of Pride

Psalm 10:2 - Persecution of the Poor

In his arrogance the wicked man hunts down the weak, who are caught in the schemes he devises.

Proverbs 13:10 - Contention and Quarrels

Pride only breeds quarrels, but wisdom is found in those who take advice.

Proverbs 21:24 - Scoffing

The proud and arrogant man--"Mocker" is his name; he behaves with overweening pride. Jeremiah 43:2 - Deny the Validity of God's Word Azariah son of Hoshaiiah and Johanan son of Kareah and all the arrogant men said to Jeremiah, "You are lying! The LORD our God has not sent you to say, 'You must not go to Egypt to settle there.'

Jeremiah 49:16 - Leads to Deception

The terror you inspire and the pride of your heart have deceived you, you who live in the clefts of the rocks, who occupy the heights of the hill. Though you build your nest as high as the eagle's, from there I will bring you down," declares the LORD.

Obadiah 1:3-4 - Gives False Security

The pride of your heart has deceived you, you who live in the clefts of the rocks and make your home on the heights, you who say to yourself, 'Who can bring me down to the ground?' 4Though you soar like the eagle and make your nest among the stars, from there I will bring you down," declares the LORD.

C. End Results of Pride

Proverbs 11:2 - Shame and Disgrace

When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.

Proverbs 16:18 - Fall and Destruction

Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.

Proverbs 18:12 - Downfall

Before his downfall a man's heart is proud, but humility comes before honor.

D. Related Passages on Pride

1 Samuel 2:3 - Reflected in Our Speech

"Do not keep talking so proudly or let your mouth speak such arrogance, for the LORD is a God who knows, and by him deeds are weighed.

Psalms 40:4 - Trust in God, Not Proud Men

Blessed is the man who makes the LORD his trust, who does not look to the proud, to those who turn aside to false gods.

Psalms 101:5 - God Punishes the Proud

Whoever slanders his neighbor in secret, him will I put to silence; whoever has haughty eyes and a proud heart, him will I not endure

Proverbs 6:16 - God Hates a Proud Look

There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to him:

Proverbs 15:25 - God Destroys the Proud

The LORD tears down the proud man's house but he keeps the widow's boundaries intact.

Proverbs 16:5 - God Detests the Proud

The LORD detests all the proud of heart. Be sure of this: They will not go unpunished.

Proverbs 21:4 - Pride is Sin

Haughty eyes and a proud heart, the lamp of the wicked, are sin!

Isaiah 2:10-22 - Final Destruction of the Proud

Go into the rocks, hide in the ground from dread of the LORD and the splendor of his majesty! ¹¹The eyes of the arrogant man will be humbled and the pride of men brought low; the LORD alone will be exalted in that day. ¹²The LORD Almighty has a day in store for all the proud and lofty, for all that is exalted (and they will be humbled), ¹³for all the cedars of Lebanon, tall and lofty, and all the oaks of Bashan, ¹⁴for all the towering mountains and all the high hills, ¹⁵for every lofty tower and every fortified wall, ¹⁶for every trading ship and every stately vessel. ¹⁷The arrogance of man will be brought low and the pride of men humbled; the LORD alone will be exalted in that day, ¹⁸and the idols will totally disappear. ¹⁹Men will flee to caves in the rocks and to holes in the ground from dread of the LORD and the splendor of his majesty, when he rises to shake the earth. ²⁰In that day men will throw away to the rodents and bats their idols of silver and idols of gold, which they made to worship. ²¹They will flee to caverns in the rocks and to the overhanging crags from dread of the LORD and the splendor of his majesty, when he rises to shake the earth. ²²Stop trusting in man, who has but a breath in his nostrils. Of what account is he?

Jeremiah 49:16 - God Brings Down the Proud

The terror you inspire and the pride of your heart have deceived you, you who live in the clefts of the rocks, who occupy the heights of the hill.

Though you build your nest as high as the eagle's, from there I will bring you down," declares the LORD.

Daniel 5:20 - Pride Leads to Downfall

But when his heart became arrogant and hardened with pride, he was deposed from his royal throne and stripped of his glory.

Malachi 3:14-15 - The Proud Appear to Prosper

"You have said, 'It is futile to serve God. What did we gain by carrying out his requirements and going about like mourners before the LORD Almighty?'¹⁵ But now we call the arrogant blessed. Certainly the evildoers prosper, and even those who challenge God escape.' "

Mark 7:20-23 - Pride Defiles

He went on: "What comes out of a man is what makes him 'unclean.'²¹ For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery,²² greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly.²³ All these evils come from inside and make a man 'unclean.' "

Romans 12:3 - Don't Over-estimate Your Importance

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.

Romans 12:16 - Pride Separates from Others of Different Status

Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

1 John 2:15-16 - Pride is Not From God

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.¹⁶ For everything in the world--the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does--comes not from the Father but from the world.

1 Tim. 6:4 - Pride Leads to Factions

he is conceited and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions

E. Summary on Pride

Pride originated in the pit. It is seen as an unwillingness to humble ourselves before God or an attitude of indifference or independence from God. It can enter my life through possessions, knowledge gained or as a result of immaturity in the faith.

There is nothing good that results from pride. The end result is destruction and shame. God is committed to humbling the proud. God hates pride. Pride may be recognized in the Christian's life through speech, contention, wrath, denying the validity of the Word and a lack of serving others.