

The Pride of Life

- *For all that is in the world — the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life — is not of the Father but is of the world.*
1Jn. 2:16
- What is “*the pride of life*?”
- Most of us all have a clear understanding of our “*lusts of the flesh,*” / “*lusts of the eyes.*”
- There are many lists of the lusts of the flesh.
- You shall not covet or lust after what belongs to another covers the lusts of the eyes.

The Pride of Life

- What about the pride of life?
- Have we ever repented of this sin?
- How does the pride of life create temptation?
- What would have to occur in your life for you to feel the need to repent of a blatant action of feeling the pride of life?
- Where is the line we dare not cross?

Pride vs Confidence?



- **Arrogance vs Experience**
- **Bragging vs True Ability**
- **Puffed up vs Truly Capable**

- **Where is the Line?**
- **Scriptures warn us: Stay as far away as possible. Best to err to humility**

Pride vs Ambition

- Where is the line between ambition that leads to success and pride that leads to arrogance?
- Dangers we must be aware of in our own hearts:
- *Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; a stranger, and not your own lips. Pr 27:2*
- *A man's pride shall bring him low; But he that is of a lowly spirit shall obtain honor. Pr 29:23*

Detecting Pride

- Use of the word MY usually in our own heart. Not something we easily let out where others can see it. Pride of life is lurking:
- My time; My money,
- My abilities My successes
- My intelligence My opportunities
- We need to carefully monitor this pronoun

Nebuchadnezzar and the Pride of Life

- *30 The king spoke, saying, "Is not this great Babylon, **that I have built** for a royal dwelling **by my mighty power** and for the honor of my majesty?"*
- *31 While the word was still in the king's mouth, a voice fell from heaven: "King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: **the kingdom has departed from you!***
- ***until you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses."** Dan 4:30-32*

The Real Truth

- *For who makes you differ from another?*
- *And what do you have that you did not receive?*
- *Now if you did indeed receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it? 1Cor 4:6-7*
- This is the clearest indication of the pride of life.
- There is nothing that we have that we did not receive.
- There is nothing that is “*mine*”

What Do I have that I did not Receive?

- *You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created.
Rev. 4:11*
- Entire material creation is a gift we received.
- When our heart makes full melody with this verse and we joyfully accept its truth, we can rise above the pride of life.
- Everything in the Material creation is from God.
- So the answer to the question above is nothing.
- It is only mine as a stewardship.

What Nebuchadnezzar Learned

- *And at the end of the time I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me; and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever: For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom is from generation to generation. Dan 4:34*
- He learned to praise and bless God.
- He saw that all his dominion was a gift from God and that he had only been placed into that position.

What Nebuchadnezzar Learned

- *36 At the same time my reason returned to me, and for the glory of my kingdom, my honor and splendor returned to me. My counselors and nobles resorted to me, **I was restored** to my kingdom, and **excellent majesty was added** to me.*
*37 Now **I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven**, all of whose works are truth, and His ways justice. And **those who walk in pride He is able to put down**. Dan 4:34, 36-37*
- Nebuchadnezzar could now see the pride of life and had removed it from his heart.

EVERYTHING is a Gift from God

- The Material creation:
- *God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion. Gen. 1:25*
- God made physics, chemistry, and energy capable of being subdued. All technology is a gift.
- God made us in His image and likeness, all natural gifts of mind and body are a gift.
- All that I can do and accomplish is a gift.
- *I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well. Ps. 139:14*

God Warned... David Believed

- When “*you say in your heart, ‘My power and the might of my hand have gained me this wealth,’ you shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth.*” Deut 8:17-18
- The greatest shield against the pride of life is to always remember God made it all possible.
- David, the man after God’s own heart knew it:
- “*Both riches and honor come from You, And You reign over all. In Your hand is power and might; In Your hand it is to make great And to give strength to all.*” 1Chr. 29:12
- Is this how we see life, ability and success?

Greatest Sign: NO Pride of Life

- *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that **you present your bodies a living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable to God, which is your **reasonable service**. Rom. 12:1*
- When we understand why it is reasonable.
- Since God gave it all it is reasonable to use it all for Him.
- When our heart resonates with this truth and we make melody in our heart to it. We have crushed the pride of life.

Greatest Sign: NO Pride of Life

- *Or do you not know that **your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit** who is in you, whom you have from God, and **you are not your own**? 20 For **you were bought at a price**; therefore **glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's**. 1Cor. 6:19-20*
- When we understand why it is reasonable.
- Everything is God's!
- Both by creation and by redemption!
- Only when we clearly see the logic and fairness will our minds be prepared to transform.

The Pride of Life Lurks Within

- *For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, **not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.** Rom 12:3-4*
- When we think: **my** abilities make me special.
- Crush it! Remember it is God who dealt and allotted it to me.
- The song leader's voice, the teacher's ability to reveal wisdom or the preacher's eloquence, are only reasons for gratitude, not to create selfish pride and folly.

The Antidote that Banishes

- *Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow. James 1:17-18*
- Gratitude always leads to humility and service.
- It is logical, reasonable and honorable.
- Never forget, no matter how great we see ourselves because of our abilities, there is one reason:
- *For who makes you differ from another, And what do you have that you did not receive? Now if you did indeed receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it? 1Cor. 4:6*