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Does Our Pride Make Us Prejudiced? (Part 1)

Proverbs 16:18: (NASB) *Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before stumbling.*



Pride can be a tricky thing and prejudice can be an awful thing. Let's focus on pride right now. On the one hand, we are told to take pride in our work - well at least when I was a kid that's what I was told. We want to be proud of our children and of our country. We want to take pride in the things we own and we want to leave a legacy that we can be proud of. So, pride is good! Well, on the other hand, we can see how pride comes before destruction, how pride can skew our view of others and how pride creates temptation to be dishonest. We can see pride becoming obsession, and we can see how pride can create a lack of trust in others, a lack of compassion for others and a lack of credit to others. Pride is bad! Obviously, this is a subject that needs not only clear definitions but clear principles to establish clear thinking. There is only one solution...let's see what the Bible says!

Let's first establish what pride means in the Old Testament: Proverbs 16:18: (NASB) ***Pride <1347>** goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before stumbling.*

Old Testament *pride* from our theme text - there are three forms of the same word:

Pride: Strongs #1342 to mount up; hence, in general, to rise, (figuratively) be majestic #1346 from #1342; arrogance or majesty; by implication, (concretely) ornament, #1347 same as #1346

Just like in the English language, pride is shown as a good quality in the right place and a bad quality in the wrong place: Deuteronomy 33:26: (NASB) *There is none like the God of Jeshurun, who rides the heavens to your help, and through the skies in His **majesty <1346>**.*

Psalms 10:1-2: (NASB) *¹Why do You stand afar off, O LORD? Why do You hide Yourself in times of trouble? ²In **pride <1346>** the wicked hotly pursue the afflicted; let them be caught in the plots which they have devised.*

Exodus 15:6-7: (NASB) *⁶Your right hand, O LORD, is majestic in power, your right hand, O LORD, shatters the enemy. ⁷And in the greatness of Your **excellence <1347>** You overthrow those who rise up against You; You send forth Your burning anger, and it consumes them as chaff.*

Proverbs 29:23: (NASB) *A man's **pride <1346>** will bring him low, but a humble spirit will obtain honor. Humility is the secret to pride in this verse.*

Let's look closer at the word *haughty* from our theme text. Combined definitions of the variances of this word:

Haughty: Strongs #1361 to soar, i.e. be lofty; figuratively, to be haughty
Strongs #1362 high, proud
Strongs #1363 elation, grandeur, arrogance, excellency, haughty, height, high, loftiness, pride
Strongs #1364 elevated (or elated), powerful, arrogant
Strongs #1365 pride

What does it mean to be proud and is being proud ever a good thing in Scripture? **Strongs #1361 - #1365** are words rarely used in relation to God. Conversely, the words for *pride* in the most positive sense is often used to describe God.

2 Chronicles 17:6: (NASB) *He took **great pride <1361>** in the ways of the LORD and again removed the high places and the Asherim from Judah. Pride is used here in a positive sense, as the pride was in the ways of the Lord. This is an example of a man taking great pride in something positive, following the principles of God.*

Proverbs 18:12: (NASB) *Before destruction the heart of man is **haughty <1361>**, but humility goes before honor. Pride is used in a negative sense.*

Psalms 113:5: (NASB) *Who is like the LORD our God, who is enthroned **on high <1361>**. This is one of the few times this word is used in relation to God. It gives us a sense of God's loftiness and our smallness. Pride conclusion: "Appropriate" pride among men in the Old Testament is rare. With so much of our current social conversation revolving around us being acceptable as we are to others - no matter what that might mean - taking this next step will surely cause many to shudder, for the New Testament is plain in its description of the dangers of pride.*



Six New Testament words describe pride. One text captures all their meanings, so for our study, here is the “best” pride text in the Bible: 2 Timothy 3:1-4: (NASB) ¹But realize this, that in the last days, difficult times will come. ²For men will be **lovers of self <5367>** (selfish), lovers of money, **boastful <213>** (braggart), **arrogant <5244>** (appearing above others), revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, ⁴treacherous, reckless, **conceited <5187>** (to inflate with self-conceit), lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.

This describes our present time, as this is a prophecy pointing to the End Times. None of these New Testament words that describe the various facets of pride are ever used in a good way.

We can look at our families with pride in how they contribute and are examples of sacrifice and giving to others. This extends to our Christian family as well, when you express to them how they did a good job. In a sense you are taking pride in what they have done.

We will now review two Scriptures that help set the basis for our understanding of pride.

We will combine the seven things God hates with the ego of Satan to help us better understand the deadly effects of pride.

First, a text that tells us what God hates - these seven things are “at home” with an inflated ego:

Proverbs 6:16-19: (NASB)

There are six things which the LORD hates, yes, seven which are an abomination to Him:

1. **Haughty eyes** (making oneself bigger)
2. **a lying tongue** (being above the need to tell the truth)
3. **hands that shed innocent blood**, (not caring about others like you care about yourself - this can escalate - think of the damage caused by evil governments and the pride of dictators)
4. **A heart that devises wicked plans**, (when driven by pride of ego, it is easy to devise plans based on “what I think is best”)
5. **Feet that run rapidly to evil**, (feet that make a beeline for it - an inflated ego creates its own definitions of good and evil)
6. **A false witness who utters lies**, (if you are above the law, who cares - say what you want) *and*
7. **one who spreads strife among brothers.**

Second, here is the highest, saddest example of ego and pride in all the Bible:

Isaiah 14:12-15: (NASB) ¹²How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, you who have weakened the nations! ¹³But you said in your heart, I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, and I will sit on the mount of assembly in the recesses of the north. ¹⁴I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High. ¹⁵Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, to the recesses of the pit.

This is a prophetic look at the rising ego and pride of Satan that caused his downfall.

What does God hate? *Hands that shed innocent blood.*

Lucifer’s description: *How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, you who have weakened the nations!*

Pride Remedy: Remove the cancer! Ephesians 1:3-4

PRIDE’S REPLACEMENT: Psalms 63:5: Spiritual satisfaction in praising God of His abundant plan. As uncomfortable as it might sound, pride often finds a comfortable place to live within our hearts. Once we let it in, pride then somehow or other names itself as our heart’s doorkeeper and it finds a way to become the monitor of our desires. This is an insidious challenge that needs serious managing!

What does God hate? *a heart that devises wicked plans*

Lucifer’s description: *But you said in your heart...*

Pride Remedy: Satisfaction! Focus your heart’s desire on being satisfied in participating in giving glory to God.

PRIDE’S REPLACEMENT: Scripturally, how do we find that satisfaction? Psalms 107:4-9: There is no room for pride if we are already filled.

Our heart truly is the window of our soul. Sometimes it wants to go places that it should not. When this happens, revisit the deep satisfaction found in God’s overruling. Satisfaction overcomes pride.

What does God hate? *a lying tongue*

Lucifer’s description: *I will ascend to heaven...*

Pride Remedy: Instead of self-elevating thoughts and plans, focus on and appreciate God’s glorious plan for the future to elevate all to perfection. Ephesians 1:7-8



PRIDE'S REPLACEMENT: Psalms 103:1-5: *Your youth is renewed like the eagle* - Soar to Him and for Him to help His cause. We gain satisfaction by implementing God's will and doing His plans.

Who satisfies your years with good things - not just satisfying for the moment.

Satan desired to elevate himself through lying to become powerful. We are freely given the power and grace of God through Jesus, as long as we are true to that grace and live it with praise! Satisfaction overcomes pride.

Even when we think we have pride stamped out in relation to our heart's desires, we are still vulnerable. Pride also finds a comfortable place in our proposed actions, as it reminds us of lingering and tempting thoughts of having or being something or someone of extraordinary magnificence. This is natural for human nature, but God gives us magnificence because He wants to. One is fleeting, the other is eternal. Satisfaction battles pride.

What does God hate? *one who spreads strife among brothers*

Lucifer's description: *I will raise my throne above the stars of God...*

Pride Remedy: Pride in our heart and on our lips is just a small step to reaching for that which is not ours. Pride distorts our view, preventing us from being God-honoring. The remedy for such a travesty is to go back to what we know is absolute truth from God's plan - that He has given us spiritual knowledge and purpose. Ephesians 1:9-10

For us to be faithful, we must help others to be faithful. We are to look out for all those around us. That is part of the call of the body of Christ.

PRIDE'S REPLACEMENT: Psalms 17:15: This is prophetically looking at the glorification of the faithful Christian. Satan was reaching for, planning for and devising for glory that was beyond him. The glorification given to the faithful Christian is beyond what we can possibly comprehend. It is freely given if we can be satisfied with God's plan.

Bask in the satisfaction of being drawn close to the Creator. Realize that there is no need to reach and take, but there is responsibility to grow and mature. To have the opportunity to be one of the stars of God's glory is a source of limitless satisfaction. Draw on it! Satisfaction overcomes pride!

Pride is devious. It does not leave us alone and the best possible answer is to find true satisfaction in God's plan, providence, will and direction for us and the world.

What does God hate? *haughty eyes*

Lucifer's description: *I will sit on the mount of assembly in the recesses of the north.*

Pride Remedy: Our pride is all about getting and protecting what we see as the things we should have or be. The remedy for such arrogance is to focus our sight on and work towards that which God has long ago put us as His gift to us and through us to the world. Are you going to look for what you want OR are you going to look for what God has provided for you?

Ephesians 1:10-11

PRIDE'S REPLACEMENT: Psalms 65:1-4: *We will be satisfied with the goodness of Your house, Your holy temple* - Satan was looking to sit on *the mount of assembly* with his haughty eyes. We are satisfied with the goodness of God's house. It fills us up and gives us everything we could ever want or need.

Look around you! See the utter beauty and sanctity of God's redemptive plan and your potential role in it. Locking your eyes on this picture is satisfying. Satisfaction overcomes pride!

As we track the ever-deepening corruption of Lucifer we begin to realize the insidious role that his pride played. What began as a prideful idea became a desire which became an entertained thought which became a plan which became an action which became a lifestyle which became a destiny. All this because of his pride. We can use satisfaction in the exact same way because of humility and we decide to become satisfied in God. It is monumental when you see the simplicity of being able to fix the issue.



What does God hate? *feet that run rapidly to evil*

Lucifer's description: *I will ascend to above the heights of the clouds...*

Pride Remedy: Satan's "plans" were for a total coup. He was focused and driven and ran full force into attaining a power that would prove to be terminal. Our remedy is to embrace the FACTS. We are called by God to be the first to receive salvation. We are therefore positioned to run rapidly towards righteousness and God's glory. How do you deal with pride? Do a face check. Pride inevitably distorts facts. Who needs a prideful vision of grandeur when you have the unfolding of God's REAL plan? [Ephesians 1:12](#)

PRIDE'S REPLACEMENT: [Psalms 147:12-15](#): *Zion* - scripturally this is used in two ways. Sometimes the physical Zion of Israel is meant. Symbolically, the spiritual "Zion" is the true church after their resurrection; the heavenly body of Christ. *Wheat* - a symbol of those called-out ones. *He satisfies you with the finest of the wheat* - He gives you everything you need with the finest of those who are called out. You are in a position to have a wonderful existence. Pride does not have a place here.

As spiritual Zion, we are blessed in EVERY way. Take these manifold blessings and make them real in your everyday life, so they can feed you until satisfied. Satisfaction overcomes pride!

The "prosperity gospel" teaches you to put your ego in the center of your prayer life. God is a God of abundance, but He will give you what you NEED and not what you WANT. If you are living a life of sacrifice and following Jesus' footsteps, that does not mean winning the lottery; it means character to be developed to become more Christlike so you can make a difference for all of the world for all of eternity.

What does God hate? *a false witness who utters lies*

Lucifer's description: *I will make myself like the Most High. Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, to the recesses of the pit.*

Pride Remedy: Satan's final proclamation here epitomized untruth, for no one can actually be like the Most High. Our remedy for such lying thoughts is to accept the true and powerful witness of God's promised Spirit. Its presence in our lives is our guarantee of God's plan, presence and power. [Ephesians 1:13-14](#)

PRIDE'S REPLACEMENT: [Ephesians 1:13-14](#): In ancient days when the king put his seal on something, it became the law of the land. *You were sealed in him with the Holy Spirit of promise* - this guarantee seals the inheritance, which brings us as close to the Most High as possible.

When we look at pride, ego and all of the aspects of Satan's fall, all the things God hates, we start to see the bottom line comparisons. Imaginations and ego pile up on one side, compared with the facts of the plan of the Most High God on the other that include not only Jesus' followers but also the rest of the world as well.

The overcomers are given an amazing level of power and responsibility because they are humble enough and willing to be developed enough to be able to handle such a thing.

Spiritual satisfaction is the key remedy for pride in all cases: [Psalms 132:13-16](#)

Replace pride with the satisfaction of becoming the resting place of God. Be clothed with the free gift of salvation and live joyfully. Always remember... satisfaction overcomes pride!

If we can put godly, spiritual satisfaction in place, focus on it, check our heart and desires against the facts of God's plan and the abundance of His mercy and adoption for us, surely pride has to go away.

*So, does our pride make us prejudiced?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!*