

## Pride: Kill it or it will kill you?

**SCRIPTURE:** James 4: 6

What is Pride?

- this is something that we all fall prey to.
- it is that “thing” that prevents us from admitting our mistakes, from apologizing, from refusing to accept our weakness, from admitting we are lost, and from submitting to authority
- it is also that “thing” that pushes us to complain about our circumstances, criticize and find fault in others, surround ourselves with luxuries we cannot afford, gloat and boast of our achievements and possessions
- this “thing” is called PRIDE. and this was something that was passed on to us by Satan. It is the beginning of all sin.

Why should we kill pride once we see it in ourselves?

1. Pragmatic (based on life realities and experiences)

- The center—and problem—of both sin and pride is “I.” We have a tendency to only see ourselves, to focus only on the I, me and myself. It is this tendency that weakens us.
- It gives us a false sense of control because we think we are strong, but in reality it is just pride.
- The “I” in us emasculates our ability to say and do the right things to or for others. It makes us the center of the universe, and blocks out everyone else, including God. Often resulting in our isolation from even the people that we love.
- It is pride that keeps us away from God. We insist on keeping control instead of allowing God to be in control
- Psalm 10:3-4 **For the wicked boasts of his heart’s desire, and the greedy man curses and spurns the Lord. The wicked, in the haughtiness of his countenance, does not seek Him. All his thoughts are, “There is no God.”**

2. Biblical (based on God’s commands and warnings)

- God hates the proud. Proverbs 16:5
- Pride leads to a hard fall and eventual destruction. Proverbs 16:18-19 ; James 4:6
- God directly and continually opposes and resists the proud. 1 Peter 5:5-7
- Pride is very subtle. Often times we are unaware of it until we look it in the eye. . .or until we hit rock bottom.
- If we are not careful, pride will lead us to a slow death. It will lull us to believe that we are fine and doing good in our Christian life unaware that beneath all that is pride rather than faith in God.
- God detests pride because it can compete with Him for glory. Instead of giving God the glory, our pride will insist that it was because of ourselves, of our efforts, of our knowledge and skills.
- Pride’s chief end is self-glorification. This means not ascribing to God what is due Him alone— this is supremacy and glory.
- Pride destroys Christlike testimony. This is something we have to be careful of – it is because of pride that we ourselves will destroy the beautiful testimony that God has planned for us. This destruction of our testimony paves the way for the emergence of a “politically correct cultural” Christianity where the proud man rules and where God is ignored and angered. Then we are no different from the others. We no longer become distinct in our identity as followers of Jesus Christ, rather we blend in and follow the crowd.

How then do we kill pride?

FIRST, We have to admit that we are prideful. Only then can we start killing pride so that it does not set us on a life

THEN

1. Reactive





- we have to know what pride looks like. It is this awareness that can help us catch it at the early stages.
- What are some of the faces of pride?
  - a. self-righteous & vindictive
  - b. discriminating & racism
  - c. defensive & unreasonable
  - d. jealous & attention-hungry
  - e. selfish, insensitive & aloof
  - f. self-righteous & a fault-finder
  - g. status- & recognition-conscious
  - h. jealous & a traitor
  - i. defensive & illogical
  - j. controlling & recognition-hungry
  - k. rebellious & disrespectful
- our best defense is KNOWLEDGE and AWARENESS,

2. Proactive

- o You can only proactively stop pride after you've seen what authentic humility looks like -- Philippians 2:3-8 ***Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.***
- o Jesus lived and modeled a radical example of humility. It was because of this that Jesus redefined greatness.
- Pride destroys and isolates, while Christ-like humility reconciles and serves others.
- At the end of the day it is your choice: Be controlled by your pride leading to death and destruction because of God's punishment OR Choose to follow Jesus, who offers to serve you and even give His life for you. He can give you His humility to be just like Him
- If we are true followers of Christ, then we should emulate His humility. This is God's plan for us. Romans 8:29 ***For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His son***

**APPLICATION:**

Patently listen as God reveals where you can apply the passage's lesson in your life. Write down specific action points to what He has revealed to you.

	Personal: Do you any pride in your life? Is it masquerading itself in self confidence? In independence? How has it manifested itself in your life in the past? How is it manifesting in your life today? Are you willing to commit to surrender your pride to God?
	Family: How is our testimony as a family? Is there a pride in our testimony?
	Discipleship: Are you your brother's keeper? How have you acted on the call of discipleship? Have you assumed responsibility to make yourself accountable?
	Church/ Ministry: Is God prompting you to work in His ministry? How can you best reflect God's grace and love in your community?

**PRAYERS:**

Lift all the things that you learned back to God. Share your thoughts to Him. If He is impressing a sin in your life, confess it to Him. He is always ready to forgive.