

Lesson 3 Pride Versus Humility

**April 11-17*

QUARTERLY- GROWING IN A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

Sabbath Afternoon

Read for This Week's Study: *1 John 2:15-17,*

Luke 18:9-14, 1 John 1:9, Heb. 11:24-26,

Luke 22:24-27, Phil. 2:3-8.

Memory Text: " 'For whoever exalts himself

will be humbled, and he who humbles himself

will be exalted' " (*Luke 14:11, NKJV*).



e've all known people with big egos, those who think they are *never* wrong. Or perhaps you know someone who wants to be in control, who never is open to instruction or constructive criticism. Or someone who seems to be constantly in conflict or is a master of putting others down. Our minds might immediately think of others, but the real question is: *What about each one of us?* By pointing the finger at others and denying pride in our own life, we deceive ourselves.

We've all battled with pride. We've all experienced times we want to look, act, speak, or appear better than those around us because we believe that we *are* better than they are, at least in some way. Someone once said that pride emerges from the desire to show that our lives have value. Yet we should already know that our lives have value because we were created by God, and we are those for whom Christ died.

This week we'll explore the impact that pride can have on our relationships with God and with others, and we'll look at what the Bible teaches us about HAVING OR PRACTICING humility before others and, of course, before God.

**Study this week's lesson to prepare for Sabbath, April 18.*

Sunday *April 12*

The Tight Fingers of Pride

Pride. When you think of this word, you might picture a proud politician, a rich or famous person, or a peacock. *Pride* is a feeling that you are more important or better than other

people. Indeed, pride is a feeling—one that cannot, and should not, be relied upon.

Pride first began with Lucifer, the covering cherub, who was in close service to God. We don't know when or how those thoughts of selfishness crept into his heart, but we do know that these thoughts propelled the universe into what we know as the great controversy. We see that Satan is the opposite of God. (*Compare Isaiah 14:12-14 and Philippians 2:5-11.*) As a result, our world has battled the consequences of sin ever since Satan planted doubt in Adam and Eve's minds and then tempted them to love and trust self above God.

HOW DID PRIDE BEGIN?

REVELATION 19:10; 22:8, 9; TDG 256

Read 1 John 2:15-17. What three main points does this passage teach you about pride and loving the world?

IN THEIR CONTEXT THIS VERSES DEFINE ANTI-CHRIST.
"Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour."1 John 2:18 ESV

1. LOVING THE WORLD INSTEAD OF CHRIST
2. NOT CHOOSING TO DO THE WILL OF GOD.

THIS IS THE SPIRIT OF ANTI -CHRIST. THIS IS WHY THERE ARE MANY ANTI-CHRISTS IN THE WORLD.

THIS HELPS US TO UNDERSTAND WHY SO MANY PEOPLE WILL RECEIVE THE MARK OF THE BEAST. ECONOMIC PRESSURE IS TOO DIFFICULT TO RESIST IF WE PUT THE LOVE OF THE WORLD IN THE PLACE OF THE LOVE OF GOD.

Can pride ever be positive? Perhaps not in the context that we know it, although we might use the word positively, when speaking about a person's achievements or in the context of a deep appreciation for something someone has done ("I'm so proud of you!"). It's important to understand that pursuing excellence and acknowledging and appreciating the gifts and abilities that God has given you is not necessarily being proud. According to Scripture, there is a proper kind of self-love (think about Jesus' command in Mark 12:31, where He says to love others as we love ourselves), but this is always *unselfish* love. People are also not proud when they have God's presence in their lives and have a purposeful direction (see *1 Tim. 3:1*).

(People are proud) PRIDE IS CONCEIVED, NURTURED AND MATURED when WE don't give God the glory for what He is doing in their lives.

DANIEL 4:

"AT THE END OF TWELVE MONTHS HE WAS WALKING ON THE ROOF OF THE ROYAL PALACE OF BABYLON, AND THE KING ANSWERED AND SAID, "IS NOT THIS GREAT BABYLON, WHICH I HAVE BUILT BY MY MIGHTY POWER AS A ROYAL RESIDENCE AND FOR THE GLORY OF MY MAJESTY?" WHILE THE WORDS WERE STILL IN THE KING'S MOUTH, THERE FELL A VOICE FROM HEAVEN, "O KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR, TO YOU IT IS SPOKEN: THE KINGDOM HAS DEPARTED FROM YOU, AND YOU SHALL BE DRIVEN FROM AMONG MEN, AND YOUR DWELLING SHALL BE WITH THE BEASTS OF THE FIELD. AND YOU SHALL BE MADE TO EAT GRASS LIKE AN OX, AND SEVEN PERIODS OF TIME SHALL PASS OVER YOU, UNTIL YOU KNOW THAT THE MOST HIGH RULES THE KINGDOM OF MEN AND GIVES IT TO WHOM HE WILL." IMMEDIATELY THE WORD WAS FULFILLED AGAINST NEBUCHADNEZZAR. HE WAS DRIVEN FROM AMONG MEN AND ATE GRASS LIKE AN OX, AND HIS BODY WAS WET WITH THE DEW OF HEAVEN

TILL HIS HAIR GREW AS LONG AS EAGLES' FEATHERS,
AND HIS NAILS WERE LIKE BIRDS' CLAWS."

DANIEL 4:29-33 ESV

We should be careful to remember that our possessions, abilities, and accomplishments don't determine our value. Instead, our value should always come from God, because everything that we have, even that which tempts us to pride, comes only from Him anyway. This is a point we must never forget.

Ask yourself: *How prideful am I, really?*
How might personal pride be impacting my
relationship with God and others?

NEXT WEEK

THE ROLE OF THE BIBLE