

The Peril of Pride

(Matthew 18:1-5)

I. What To Think About Pride?

1: disciples' debate

- Disciples do not share views with Jesus, Mk.9:33-34
- Jesus previously spoke of greatness –
 - John, 11:11
 - Inner circle, 17:1 – false impression?

“Jesus will establish His kingdom; twelve of us; my hat is in the ring...”

“Who is greatest?”

Question reveals a lot... (ignorance)

2: child in midst: object lesson

- Mk.9:36
- Our society caters to children; theirs did not (18:25)
- Little child in midst: not strong, wise, talented, self-sufficient, but totally dependent on others

This is the way His disciples must view themselves. 1 K.3:7

3: what does Jesus require of disciples?

- Truly I say to you... [open your ears!]
- Turn. Withdraw from competition
 - Conversion. Ac.7:39
 - Accept status of a nobody...
- Become as children
 - By contending with others over greatness, they are losing childlikeness...
 - 1 Sm.3

3: what does Jesus require of disciples?

- Children are encouraged to become a big boy / girl – quit acting like a child
 - Temper, rudeness, stubbornness, self-assertiveness, etc.
- Mt.18: remain a child in status, humility, gratitude, obedience, trust, dependence...
- 1 Co.14:20, Brethren, do not be children in understanding; however, in malice be babes, but in understanding be mature

3: will never enter kingdom of heaven

- Jesus: 'If you think you are great, I can't use you...'
 - 3 Jn.⁹ I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to have the preeminence among them, does not receive us.
¹⁰ Therefore, if I come, I will call to mind his deeds which he does, prating against us with malicious words. And not content with that, he himself does not receive the brethren, and forbids those who wish to, putting them out of the church

3: will never enter kingdom of heaven

- Jesus: 'If you think you are great, I can't use you...'
 - 3 Jn.9-10
 - Col.1¹⁸ And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence

3: Jesus does not answer their question

- Emphatic double negative – ‘no no’
- Some need not apply
- Jesus wants His kingdom filled with “little children” . . .
 - Est.3

4: greatness: not being better than others

- Eph.3:8
- Whoever humbles himself as little child is greatest...
 - “This child can’t do anything”
- “Child must grow into manhood to enter kingdom” – true, but . . .
- Jesus reverses it: “the man must go back and become childlike”

God can fill only empty vessels with His gifts

4: greatness: not being better than others

- “This little child” (visual aid)
 - Purpose is NOT to receive service, but to give it

5: how to treat such a 'child'?

- Receive – welcome. No competition
- One – lowest number possible
- Such – includes all: greatest number
 - To receive a child brings us no recognition
 - “Child” illustrates least in kingdom (6) – he has characteristics of children
- Receives Me – emphatic. Ph.2:9-11

I. What To Think About Pride?

II. What Is Pride?

Pride is . . .

- Independence – need no one, no thing . . .
- Ingratitude – self made man owes no one
- Immodesty. 1 Co.4:7, 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?
- Ignorance. Peter would deny Him...all would run...

I. What To Think About Pride?

II. What Is Pride?

III. What Does Pride Do?

Pride defies God

- Prov.6¹⁶, These six *things* the LORD hates, Yes, seven *are* an abomination to Him:
¹⁷A proud look...
- 1 Pt.5⁵ all of *you* be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for “*God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble*”

Pride defiles people

- Prov.21⁴ A haughty look, a proud heart, and the plowing of the wicked are sin
- Lk.18⁹ ...trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others
 - “The truly proud man knows neither superiors nor inferiors. The first he does not admit of; the last he does not concern himself about” – Hazlin

Pride divides society

- Prov.15³³ The fear of the LORD *is* the instruction of wisdom, And before honor *is* humility
 - “The proud hate pride – in others” – B. Franklin

Pride destroys souls

- 1 Jn.2:16 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
 - Proud of possessions
 - Arrogance based on material possessions
 - Display in style of living - Th.

Pride defeats churches

- Rv.3¹⁶ So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. ¹⁷ Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked

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III. What Does Pride Do?

IV. Who Is Proud?

Proud people include . . .

- Worldly people. Dn.5
- Disciples. Mt.17:22-23 . . . 18:1-5
- Novices. 1 Tim.3⁶ not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil

I. What To Think About Pride?

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V. What Causes Pride?

Pride may attach itself to . . .

- Money, 2 K.20:13 / Est.1:4
- National power, 1 Sm.8. Dn.4
- Social standing, 1 Sm.9:20-21 . . . 10:27
- Mental superiority, Ac.17:18...
- Religious superiority, Mt.6:1-5
 - 2: illustration – charity with a trumpet
 - 3: restriction – right hand, left hand
 - 4: goal – be satisfied for God to know

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VI. What Cures Pride?

1. Think correctly about God, Isa.6

- 8th Century Israel: sixteen year old became king . . . ruled 52 years
 - Pride . . . Priests . . . Leprosy . . . Death
 - Is.6, Lord on throne
 - Isaiah saw glory of God (Is.6:2-3)

2. Think correctly about self, Ro.12:3

- Lk.5:1...9, Peter's new perspective
 - Consumed with Lord's holiness, and his own unworthiness

3. Think correctly about others

- Ph.2³ ...in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself
 - See strengths and gifts of others, but our own weaknesses
 - NASB: 'regard one another as more important than yourselves'
 - Jesus Himself illustrates – Ph.2:5-8