

Respectable Sins

Pride, part 2

How to Be Killing Pride and Cultivating Humility

Grace Fellowship Church, Pastor Brad Bigney, April 10, 2011

- I. **Study The Attributes Of God** – especially the incommunicable ones – the ones that are not like us!

Job 26:7-14 “He stretches out the north over empty space; He hangs the earth on nothing. He binds up the water in His thick clouds, yet the clouds are not broken under it. He covers the face of His throne, and spreads His cloud over it. He drew a circular horizon on the face of the waters... indeed these are the mere edges of his ways, and how small a whisper we hear of Him! But the thunder of His power who can understand?”

I Timothy 1:17 “Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honor and glory forever and ever, amen.”

“The grand difference between a human being and a supreme being is precisely this. Apart from God I cannot exist. Apart from me God does exist. God does not need me in order for Him to be. I do need God in order for me to be... we are dependent, we are fragile... no human being has the power of being within himself. Life is lived between two hospitals. We need support system from birth to death in order to sustain life. We are like flowers that bloom and then wither and fade, and this is how we differ from God. God does not wither. God does not fade. God is not fragile.” **R. C. Sproul**

“Pride is a telescope turned the wrong way. It magnifies self and makes the heavens small.” C.S. Lewis, **Screwtape Letters**

The more aware we become of the infinite distance between us and God the more humility we’ll EXPERIENCE and EXPRESS. Arrogant, prideful people don’t know God very well.

Recommended reading: *Knowledge of the Holy* by A.W. Tozer, *Attributes of God* by A.W. Pink, *Knowing God* by J.I. Packer, and *Pleasures of God* by John Piper

II. Every Day Survey the Wondrous Cross on Which the Prince of Glory Died

“Nothing in history or in the universe cuts us down to size like the cross. All of us have inflated views of ourselves... until we have visited a place called Calvary. It is there, at the foot of the cross that we shrink to our true size.” John Stott, *The Message of Galatians* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVartisy, 1968), 179

The cross **magnifies** God's worth and **minimizes** ours, but our self-saturated society has even perverted that!

“God deliberately designed the gospel in such a way so as to strip me of pride and leave me without any grounds for boasting in myself whatsoever... Nothing suffocates my pride more than daily reminders regarding the glory of my God, the gravity of my sins, and the crucifixion of God's own Son in my place... Pride wilts in the atmosphere of the gospel.” *The Gospel Primer*, Milton Vincent, pgs. 27, 29

Philippians 2:5-11, “And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God has also highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Isaiah 53:4-5, 10-11 “Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed... Yet it

pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief, when You make His soul an offering for sin... He shall see the travail of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many.”

Recommended reading: *The Cross of Christ* by John Stott. *Comforts of the Cross* by Elyse Fitzpatrick. *The Cross Centered Life* by C.J. Mahaney.

III. Practice the Spiritual Disciplines in Your Life

“God, what I just did make absolutely no contribution to the basis of my justification, but what I just did is a statement of my need for you and dependence on You.” **C.J. Mahaney**

“Keep his mind on the inner life... Encourage this. Keep his mind off the most elementary duties by directing it to the most advanced and spiritual ones. Aggravate that most useful human characteristic, the horror and neglect of the obvious. You must bring him to a condition in which he can practice self-examination for an hour without discovering any of those facts about himself which are perfectly clear to anyone who has ever lived in the same house with him or worked in the same office.” **The Screwtape Letters**, C. S. Lewis, P. 21

IV. Invite and Pursue Correction

Pride CAMOUFLAGES itself in our hearts and dives down deep to avoid being detected... so you're gonna need help from other people around you.

- If there was something God wanted to tell you through your spouse or somebody else, could He do it?
- Do you listen to anybody around you?
- Would your spouse and others who are close to you say you are EASY to entreat... that you're APPROACHABLE or not?

“And don’t be put off when a friend’s observations may not be 100% accurate. I’ve found that there’s truth to be gleaned at times even from an enemy’s critique. Humility doesn’t demand mathematical precision from another’s input; humility postures itself to receive God’s grace from any avenue possible.” C.J.Mahaney. *Humility – True Greatness*, p. 134

Prov. 10:17 “He who keeps instruction is in the way of life, but he who refuses correction goes astray.”

Prov. 15:31-32 “The ear that hears the rebukes of life will abide among the wise. He who disdains instruction despises his own soul, but he who heeds rebuke gets understanding.”

Prov. 29:1 “He who is often rebuked, and hardens his neck, will suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.”

V. Go to Bed and Go to Sleep!

“We idolize Thomas Edison, who claimed he could live on fifteen-minute naps. Somehow we forget to mention Albert Einstein, who averaged eleven hours of sleep a night. In 1910 Americans slept nine hours a night; today we sleep seven and are proud of it. And we are tired because of it. Our minds are tired. Our bodies are tired. But much more important, our souls are tired.” *Traveling Light*, Max Lucado, P. 39

Psalm 23:2-3 “He makes me lie down in green pastures... He restores my soul.”

Psalm 127:2 “In vain you rise early and stay up late, toiling for food to eat— for He grants sleep to those He loves.”

Sleep has a theological purpose! It’s not just a waste of time that we need to somehow eliminate from our lives. It serves a divine God-given purpose. It reminds us that God is in control... and we’re not... and that God is the only limitless, all-powerful being in the universe.