

## Toward A Biblical Understanding of Pride

### Introduction:

- “Bet you’re proud of \_\_\_\_\_?”
- “Makes you kinda proud, doesn’t it?”
- “I’m just a humble Christian, and proud of it!”
- “Sometimes you just have to swallow your pride.”
- “Proud parent of a \_\_\_\_\_.”

### Part 1: What is pride?

- 1) Old Testament root words for pride, proud, arrogant, haughty, etc.
  - a) *Ga’ah* [# 1342]—to rise up
    - i) Job 40:11-12; Psalm 94:2; 140:5; Proverbs 8:13; 15:25; 16:19; Jeremiah 48:29
  - b) *Gabah* [# 1361]—to be high, exalted
    - i) 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 26:16; 32:25-26; Psalm 10:4; 101:5; 131:1; 138:6; Proverbs 16:5, 18; 18:12; Ecclesiastes 7:8; Isaiah 3:16; 5:15; Jeremiah 13:15; 48:29; 49:16; Ezekiel 16:50; 21:26; 28:2, 5, 17; Zephaniah 3:11
  - c) *Gadal* [# 1431]—to grow, to make great, to magnify
    - i) Job 19:5; Psalm 35:26; 38:16; 55:12; Isaiah 9:9; 10:12; Jeremiah 48:26, 42; Ezekiel 35:13; Daniel 8:11, 25; 11:36-37; Obadiah 1:12; Zephaniah 2:8, 10
  - d) *Gevah* [# 1466]—lift up
    - i) Job 33:17; Jeremiah 13:17
  - e) *Zud* [# 2102]—to boil, to act presumptuously, to act insolently
    - i) Exodus 18:11; Deuteronomy 1:43; 17:13; 18:20; Nehemiah 9:10, 16, 29; Psalm 19:13; 86:14; 119:21, 51, 69, 78, 85, 122; Proverbs 21:24; Isaiah 13:11; Jeremiah 43:2; 50:29; Malachi 3:15, 19
  - f) *Yahiyir* [# 3093]—proud, arrogant, haughty
    - i) Proverbs 21:24; Habakkuk 2:5
  - g) *Aphal* [# 6075]—to lift up, to swell, to be bold or presumptuous
    - i) Numbers 14:44; Habakkuk 2:4
  - h) *Rahab* [# 7292]—to behave proudly, to storm against
    - i) Job 9:13; Psalm 40:4; Isaiah 3:5
  - i) *Rum* [# 7311]—to lift, to rise up, to magnify, boldness, defiance
    - i) Numbers 15:30; Deuteronomy 8:14; 17:20; 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel 22:28; 1<sup>st</sup> Kings 11:26-27; Psalm 18:27; 131:1; Proverbs 6:17; 21:4; 30:13; Isaiah 2:11-12, 17; 10:12, 33; Jeremiah 48:29; Daniel 11:12, 36; Hosea 13:6
  - j) *Rachab* [# 7342]—broad, wide
    - i) Psalm 101:5; Proverbs 21:4; 28:25
- 2) New Testament root words for pride, proud, etc.
  - a) *Alazon* [# 213]—empty pretender, boaster
    - i) Romans 1:30; 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 3:2
  - b) *Tuphoo* [# 5187]—puffed up with pride, wrapped in a mist, blind with pride
    - i) 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 3:6; 6:4; 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 3:4
  - c) *Huperephanos* [# 5244]—to show one’s self above others, overestimate oneself
    - i) Mark 7:21; Luke 1:51; Romans 1:30; 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 3:2; James 4:6; 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 5:5
  - d) *Hupselophroneo* [# 5309]—to be high-minded, proud
    - i) Romans 11:20; 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 6:17
- 3) An expanded, working definition of pride

- a) To have within one's heart an inflated, presumptuous view of one's importance, influence, etc. with a sense of indestructibility that is self-assertive concerning glory.
- b) To have a focus on one's self in pursuit of self-recognition and self-exaltation.
- c) It is a refusal to humble oneself before God (Exodus 10:3).

## Part 2: What is humility?

- 1) Old Testament root words for humility, humble, contrite, etc.
  - a) Daka' [# 1792]—crushed, contrite
    - i) Psalm 34:18; 51:17; Isaiah 53:5, 10; 57:15; Jeremiah 44:10
  - b) Kana' [# 3665]—to be humble, subdued
    - i) Leviticus 26:41; 1<sup>st</sup> Kings 21:29; 22:19; 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 7:14; 12:6-7, 12; 30:11; 32:26; 33:12, 19, 23; 34:27; 36:12
  - c) Anah [# 6031]—to afflict, to humble oneself
    - i) Exodus 10:3; Numbers 12:3; Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 16; 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel 22:28; Ezra 8:21; Psalm 9:12; 10:12, 17; 18:27; 25:9; 34:2; 35:13; 45:4; 69:32; 147:6; 149:4; Proverbs 3:34; 15:33; 18:12; 22:4; Isaiah 29:19; 66:2; Daniel 10:12; Amos 2:7; Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12
  - d) Tsana' [# 6800]—lowly, modest
    - i) Proverbs 11:2
  - e) Raphas [#7511]—to stamp oneself down, to humble oneself
    - i) Proverbs 6:3
  - f) Shuwach [#7743]—to bow down, to sink down
    - i) Lamentations 3:20
  - g) Shaphal [# 8217]—to be lowly, to be humble
    - i) 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel 6:22; Job 40:11; Proverbs 16:19; 29:23; Isaiah 2:11; 5:15; 10:33; 57:15; Jeremiah 13:18; Ezekiel 21:26; Daniel 5:22
- 2) New Testament root words for humility, humble, etc.
  - a) Tapeinos [# 5011]—lowly, humble
    - i) Matthew 18:4; 23:12; Luke 14:11; 18:14; Romans 12:16; 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 11:7; 12:21; Philippians 2:8; 4:12; James 4:6, 10; 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 5:5-6
- 3) An expanded, working definition of humility
  - a) The Spirit enabled ever-increasing delight and focus on God and others rather than self. (cf. 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:15)
  - b) "It is a low esteem of self, and sees self as indeed nothing, with no desire to feel self-sufficient, and freely renouncing all self-glory." (Edwards, *Religious Affections*, 128)
  - c) It is not thinking less of ourselves; it is thinking of ourselves less.
  - d) Stuart Scott (*From Pride to Humility*) identifies 24 manifestations of humility (pp. 18-21)

## Part 3: Is boasting ever God-honoring?

- 1) Boasting acknowledged as **negative/sinful** (glorying in one's comparative superiority)
  - a) Old Testament
    - i) Unwarranted boasting about the future—1<sup>st</sup> Kings 20:11; Proverbs 27:1
    - ii) Boasting about glory from past successes—2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 25:19
    - iii) Boasting is parallel to working iniquity—Psalm 5:5; 94:4
    - iv) Boasting is identified as coming from the wicked—Psalm 10:3; 52:1; 73:3; 75:4
    - v) Boasting is recognized as being empty—Psalm 49:6; 90:10
    - vi) Boasting in something other than God is a form of worship—Psalm 97:7

- vii) Boasting is often self-referential—Proverbs 20:14; 25:14; Isaiah 10:15; Jeremiah 49:4; Ezekiel 24:21; 35:13
- b) New Testament
  - i) Boasting is recognized as empty pretending—Romans 1:30; 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 4:7; 9:15-16; 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 11:12; Galatians 6:13; 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 3:2; James 3:5; 4:16
  - ii) Boasting in one's assumed relationship with God—Romans 2:17, 23; 3:27; 4:2; 11:19; 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 1:29; Ephesians 2:9
  - iii) Boasting in people is strictly forbidden—1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 3:21; James 3:14
- 2) Boasting acknowledged as **positive/righteous** (glorifying God)
  - a) Old Testament
    - i) Boasting in Yahweh is a form of praise—Psalm 34:2; 44:8
    - ii) Israel will boast in what God will do through them—Isaiah 61:6
    - iii) It is appropriate to boast in what God has done—Jeremiah 9:24
  - b) New Testament (more along the lines of expressing joy in someone or some thing)
    - i) There are some appropriate grounds in Christ for boasting about other believers—1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:31; 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:12; 7:4, 14; 8:24; 9:2-4; 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 1:4
    - ii) There are appropriate, but limited, grounds for boasting in one's God-given ministry among other believers—Romans 15:17; 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 1:12, 14; 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 10:8, 13, 15-16; 11:10, 16-18, 30; 12:1, 5-6, 9, 11; Galatians 6:14
    - iii) There is appropriate ground for boasting in what God has done—1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 1:31; 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 10:17; Philippians 3:3; James 1:9

#### **Part 4: Can you ever accurately identify pride in the lives of others?**

- 1) No
  - a) Eliab angrily and wrongfully accuses David of being proud—1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 17:28
- 2) Yes (well... sort of)
  - Stuart Scott (*From Pride to Humility*) identifies 30 manifestations of pride (pp. 6-10)
    - a) Heads held high—Isaiah 3:16
    - b) Eyes—Psalm 18:27; 101:5; 131:1; Proverbs 6:17; 21:4; 30:13; Isaiah 2:11; 5:15; 10:12
    - c) Facial expressions—Psalm 10:4
    - d) Speech—1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 2:3; Psalm 55:12; 119:69; Isaiah 9:9; Ezekiel 35:13; Obadiah 1:12; Zephaniah 2:8, 10
    - e) Defiant actions toward those whom they should respect—Numbers 15:30; 1<sup>st</sup> Kings 11:26-27; Isaiah 3:5

#### **Part 5: Is pride ever revealed in the Bible to be a positive characteristic?**

No—Proverbs 21:4

#### **Part 6: What are some things that might lead to being tempted to pride?**

- 1) Wealth—Ezekiel 28:5; 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 6:17
- 2) Beauty—Ezekiel 28:17
- 3) Earthly possessions that sustain life—1<sup>st</sup> John 2:16
- 4) One pastor referred to pride of face, pride of place, pride of grace, and pride of race.

#### **Part 7: How does God view the proud?**

- 1) He knows the motive of their actions—Nehemiah 9:10
- 2) He abhors them—Proverbs 16:5

### **Part 8: What will God do with the proud?**

- 1) He destroys them—2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel 22:28; Psalm 12:3; 18:27; 94:2; 101:5; Proverbs 15:25; Isaiah 2:12, 17; 10:12; 13:11; Jeremiah 50:31-32; Ezekiel 16:50; 30:18; 33:28; Zephaniah 3:11; Malachi 4:1
- 2) He repays them—Psalm 31:23; Jeremiah 50:29
- 3) He rebukes them—Psalm 119:21
- 4) He humbles them—Isaiah 10:33
- 5) He resists them—Proverb 3:34 (LXX); James 4:6; 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 5:5

### **Part 9: What is God's revealed remedy for pride?**

- 1) Put off pride
  - a) Spend appropriate time in the Word—Deuteronomy 17:18-20
  - b) Obey the direct command to not be proud—Jeremiah 13:15
  - c) Hate pride—Proverbs 8:13
  - d) Recognize the dangers of pride—Proverbs 11:2; 13:10; 16:18; 18:12; 29:23
  - e) Do not seek help from the proud—Psalm 40:4
  - f) Remember the sins often associated with pride
    - i) Sins of speech—Psalm 12:3; 59:12; 119:69, 78; Proverbs 8:13; 14:3; Isaiah 9:9-10; Jeremiah 43:2; Zephaniah 2:8, 10
    - ii) Anger/wrath—Isaiah 16:6
    - iii) Refusal to listen to spiritual rebuke/an unteachable spirit—2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 36:12; Jeremiah 13:17
    - iv) Contempt toward and oppression of others—Psalm 86:14; 119:122; 123:4; 140:5; Proverbs 16:19
    - v) Godless mindset—Psalm 10:4; 86:14
    - vi) Strife—Proverbs 28:25
    - vii) Homosexuality—Ezekiel 16:49-50
  - g) Avoid the examples of those who exhibit pride
    - i) Ephraim and Samaria—Isaiah 9:9; 28:1, 3
    - ii) Babylon and Chaldea—Isaiah 13:19
    - iii) Moab—Isaiah 16:6; 25:10-11; Jeremiah 48:29; 49:13; Zephaniah 2:10
    - iv) Tyre—Isaiah 23:9
    - v) Judah and Jerusalem; Israel—Jeremiah 13:9, 17; Ezekiel 7:10; Hosea 5:5; 7:10; Amos 6:8; 8:7; Zephaniah 3:11
    - vi) Sodom—Ezekiel 16:49, 56
    - vii) Egypt—Ezekiel 30:6
    - viii) Nebuchadnezzar—Daniel 4:37; 5:20
    - ix) Edom—Obadiah 1:3
    - x) Philistines—Zechariah 9:6
    - xi) Assyria—Zechariah 10:11
- 2) Put on humility
  - a) Obey the command to humble ourselves—Proverbs 6:3; James 4:10; 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 5:5-6
    - i) People may refuse to humble themselves—Exodus 10:3; 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 33:23; 36:12; Daniel 5:22
    - ii) People may genuinely acknowledge the guilt of their sin—Leviticus 26:41
  - b) Follow the examples of those who humbled themselves—2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 32:26; Ezra 8:21; Daniel 10:12; Romans 12:16; Philippians 2:8
  - c) Remember the value God places on humility

- i) Old Testament—Numbers 12:3; Deuteronomy 8:2, 16; 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 2:7-8; 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 7:14; 33:23; Ezra 8:21; Psalm 9:12; 10:12, 17; 18:27; 25:9; 138:6; 147:6; 149:4; Proverbs 3:34; 16:19; 29:23; Isaiah 29:19; 57:15; Daniel 10:12
- ii) New Testament—Matthew 18:4; 23:12; Luke 14:11; 18:14; James 4:6; 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 5:5-6
- d) Recognize the benefits of humility—Proverbs 29:23
- e) Remember that God gives grace to the humble—Proverbs 3:34; James 4:6; 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 5:5