



# Love and Pride

In 1 Corinthians 13: "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud."

Paul says that humility is a very important part of our love relationship. And yet, if you look around the world today, humility is often disparaged. Yet, if we're going to have the kind of relationship with one another that God wants us to have, then we need to understand why Paul says, "Love does not boast, it is not proud." And then begin to develop Godly humility in our lives.

## Problems Created By Pride

### 1. **Misunderstanding.**

Have you ever met someone who knows it all? It doesn't make any difference what the topic is, they always have something to say about it. And they never really listen to anybody else because they think, and they believe that they already know all the answers.

## **2. It provokes Arguments.**

Proverbs 13:10 says, "Pride...breeds quarrels". If you put two people who know it all in the same room, then you have two irresistible forces, two immovable objects who will not back down, or admit that they might be wrong. And the arguments continue on & on- because no one will concede, and both will assert that he or she is right.

## **3. It Prevents Real Fellowship.**

Usually, people who are proud will not allow you to see them as they really are. They try to conceal their real self, they try to say things that they think will impress you, & in most cases, they will never allow you to see deep inside, because they are afraid that their real self will not be accepted. So, they pretend to be the person that they are not.

## **4. It Postpones Reconciliation.**

If people are proud, then they aren't usually willing to back down or compromise or are willing to find a common ground where agreement or a resolution can be reached.

Steps In Developing Humility...

### **Acknowledging Our Mortality.**

The Scripture says that life is but a vapor that appears for a moment & then disappears. The Bible teaches that our bodies are made out of the dust of the ground, & that one of these days they will return to the dust. It's humbling to realize that the bodies that you have pampered and cared for will someday be nothing more than part of the earth once again.

### **We need to remember our own Fallibility.**

We make decisions that are wrong. We say things that are stupid. We do things that are embarrassing. Paul never glosses over the fact that he once persecuted Christians. Again & again he reminds himself & everyone, "I am the chief of sinners, saved by the grace of God."

**We need to remember God's sovereignty, & that He is in charge.**

Each of us must reach the point where we will come before God & say, "God, I need help. I can't save myself. I need you." We must come to God & admit that He's in charge, & that He is sovereign over our lives. Only then will we really be humble before God.

**We need to develop servanthood.**

In Matthew 20:28 Jesus said, "The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, & to give His life as a ransom for many." The only way we can finally begin to develop the virtue of humility is by becoming a servant and by caring about others.

Pride destroys relationships. It shows up in a lot of different ways, like criticism, competition, stubbornness, and superficiality.

The problem with pride is it's self-deceiving. Everybody else can see it in us but us. When you have a problem with pride, you don't see it in your life.

*Proverbs 16:18 says, "Pride leads to destruction; a proud attitude brings ruin" (NCV).*

This verse in the Message paraphrase: "First pride, then the crash — the bigger the ego, the harder the fall."

How do you become a new person? How do you start to think in a different way? The basic law of relationships is this:

You tend to become like the people you spend time with. If you spend time with grumpy people, you get grumpier. If you spend time with happy people, you get happier. If you want to have more humility, spend time with Jesus Christ. He is humble. He wants a relationship with you. He wants you to spend time with him in prayer and reading his Word and talking to him. He is humble, and as you get to know him, you'll become more like him.

*“Be humble and give more honor to others than to yourselves .... You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to”(Philippians 2:3*



- 1.) Share a time in your life when you let pride win over you and your relationships ?***
- 2.) How difficult was it to let go and be humble?***
- 3.) How does it feel when you finally let go of pride?***
- 4.) What did you learn from today's message?***