

# PR“I”DE

(part 2)

Matthew 23:1-12

Introduction: Pride is an evil that dwells in the heart of man (Mark 7:21-23). It glorifies self while it displaces God in one’s heart. It is a sin that God simply hates!

## I. Pride leads to other things.

A. Pride seeks after titles and prestige (Matt. 23:1-12). “But all their works they do to be seen by men” (vs. 5). “They love the best places... and to be called by men, ‘Rabbi, Rabbi’” (vs. 6-7). Pride exalts oneself (vs.12).

B. Pride leads to contentions and strife (Prov. 13:10).

1. Strife is bitter and sometimes violent conflict. It is contention for superiority. [Webster]

2. If your life is characterized as bitter conflicts and the posturing for superiority, pride is the culprit.

C. Pride prevents conversions (Matt. 18:1-4). If you can’t humble yourself to admit your sins, you can’t become a Christian!

D. Pride will not seek God (Psm. 10:4).

E. Pride causes us to forget God (Deut. 8:11-20; emp. vs. 17).

F. Pride makes us think highly of ourselves (Gal. 6:3). It is a form of self deception.

## II. Illustrations:

A. “A Christian mother feels as if her world is caving in. Her husband has quit going to church. She is having trouble with her teens at home. She is under tremendous pressure at work, and she is having a difficult time in her relationship with one of her co-workers. Her elderly parents are requiring more and more of her attention. Spiritually she feels dead, and she attends worship services merely out of a sense of duty. Tension and frustration are all around her. Yet, when others ask how she is doing, she replies, “Just fine.” When someone at church mentions concern and offers to help, she responds, “I can handle it. I don’t need any help.”

“Oh, the subtle sin of Pride. It is pride that makes us feel self-sufficient. Pride keeps us from admitting we need God. Pride keeps us from asking for help or accepting help when it is offered. Pride focuses our attention only on ourselves.” [Rosemary McKnight, “Those Who Wait,” Gospel Advocate Co., Nashville, TN, 1989, p. 111]

B. A Chinese Proverb says, “He who stands on a pedestal has no place to step but off.” The Bible says, “Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall” (1 Cor. 10:12).

III. Pride is of the world (1 John 2:15-17).

A. If we are proud, the love of God is not in us!

B. Pride is not from God but from the world and it is passing away! The implication is the proud are passing away too. A proud person will not live eternally.

IV. The cure for pride.

A. Humility (1 Pet. 5:5; Jas. 4:6; Mic. 6:8).

B. Trust in God and not in your understanding (Prov. 3:5).

C. Don’t think highly of yourself (Rom. 12:3).

D. Associate with the humble and don’t think of yourself as wise (Rom. 12:16).

E. Love (1 Cor. 13:4)! Love is never proud but pride always lacks love.

Conclusion: “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble” (Jas. 4:6b).

Grace (the unmerited favor to forgive sins) is not extended to the proud. A proud person will not be found in heaven. If you want to be forgiven of your sins, you must humbly come to God. Lose the “I” in pride and repent.