

Pride and Humility

I. Proverbs on Pride and Humility

A. From Proverbs 1-9

1. 3:5-8 - Do not be wise in your own eyes, trust the Lord
2. 3:34 - God scoffs at scoffers, but gives grace to the afflicted
2. 6:16 - God hates haughty eyes
3. 8:13 - Wisdom is opposed to pride

B. From Proverbs 10-31

- 11:2 When pride comes, then comes dishonor,
But with the humble is wisdom
- 12:9 Better is he who is lightly esteemed and has a servant
Than he who honors himself and lacks bread.
- 12:15 The way of a fool is right in his own eyes
But a wise man is he who listens to counsel
- 13:10 Through insolence comes nothing but strife,
But wisdom is with those who receive counsel.
- 14:16 A wise man is cautious and turns away from evil,
But a fool is arrogant and careless.
- 15:25 The LORD will tear down the house of the proud,
But He will establish the boundary of the widow.
- 15:33 The fear of the LORD is the instruction for wisdom,
And before honor comes humility.
- 16:5 Everyone who is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD;
Assuredly, he will not be unpunished.
- 16:18-19
Pride goes before destruction,
And a haughty spirit before stumbling.
It is better to be humble in spirit with the lowly
Than to divide the spoil with the proud.
- 18:12 Before destruction the heart of man is haughty,
But humility goes before honor.
- 21:4 Haughty eyes and a proud heart, The lamp of the wicked, is sin.
- 21:24 "Proud," "Haughty," "Scoffer," are his names,
Who acts with insolent pride.
- 22:4 The reward of humility and the fear of the LORD
Are riches, honor and life.
- 25:6-7
Do not claim honor in the presence of the king,
And do not stand in the place of great men;
For it is better that it be said to you, "Come up here,"

Than for you to be placed lower in the presence of the
prince, Whom your eyes have seen.

25:14 Like clouds and wind without rain Is a man
who boasts of his gifts falsely.

25:27 It is not good to eat much honey,
Nor is it glory to search out one's own glory.

26:5 Answer a fool as his folly deserves,
That he not be wise in his own eyes.

26:12 Do you see a man wise in his own eyes?
There is more hope for a fool than for him.

26:16 The sluggard is wiser in his own eyes
Than seven men who can give a discreet answer.

27:1 Do not boast about tomorrow,
For you do not know what a day may bring forth.

27:2 Let another praise you, and not your own mouth;
A stranger, and not your own lips.

28:11 The rich man is wise in his own eyes,
But the poor who has understanding sees through him.

28:25 An arrogant man stirs up strife,
But he who trusts in the LORD will prosper.

29:23 A man's pride will bring him low,
But a humble spirit will obtain honor.

30:12 There is a kind who is pure in his own eyes,
Yet is not washed from his filthiness.

30:13 There is a kind--oh how lofty are his eyes!
And his eyelids are raised in arrogance.

30:32 If you have been foolish in exalting yourself
Or if you have plotted evil, put your hand on your mouth.

III. Principles related to pride and humility

- A. Pride brings poverty and dishonor
 - 1. 11:2; 12:9; 25:6-7; 25:14
 - 2. Matt 23:12
- B. Humility is conducive to wisdom
 - 11:2, 12:15
- C. Pride makes one resistant to wise instruction
 - 1. 12:15; 21:24; 26:5; 26:16; 30:12-13
 - 2. 1 Tim 6:3-4
- D. Pride leads to conflict, and is dangerous and destructive
 - 13:10; 14:16; 16:18-19; 18:12; 25:27; 28:25

E. Humility is a prerequisite for honor

1. 15:33; 26:12; 27:2; 29:23
2. Other passages
 - a. Matt 20:26-27
 - b. Luk 14:10-11

F. Pride puts you at odds with or make you an enemy of God

1. 15:25; 16:5; 21:4
2. Luke 18:13-14; James 4:6
3. The inverse is also true, humility can help bring you closer to God
 - a. Matt 5:3
 - b. Matt 18:2-4

G. Humility can bring prosperity

22:4

H. Prosperity can bring pride

1. 28:11
2. James 1:9-10; 1 Tim 6:17

III. Some addition material on pride and humility

Did you hear about the pastor who was so humble that one Sunday his church presented him with a solid gold lapel pin that said "World's most humble pastor." The next Sunday he wore it on his suit, so they took it away from him!

Palm Monday The donkey awakened, his mind still savoring the afterglow of the most exciting day of his life. Never before had he felt such a rush of pleasure and pride. He walked into town and found a group of people by the well. "I'll show myself to them" he thought. But they didn't notice him. They went on drawing their water and paid him no mind. "Throw your garments down," he said crossly. "Don't you know who I am?" They just looked at him in amazement. Someone slapped him across the tail and ordered him to move. "Miserable heathens!" he muttered to himself. "I'll just go to the market where the good people are. They will remember me." But the same thing happened. No one paid any attention to the donkey as he strutted down the main street in front of the market place. "The palm branches! Where are the palm branches!" he shouted. "Yesterday, you threw palm branches!" Hurt and confused, the donkey returned home to his mother. "Foolish child," she said gently. "Don't you realize that without him, you are just an ordinary donkey?" Just like the donkey who carried Jesus in Jerusalem, we are most fulfilled when we are in the service of Jesus Christ. Without him, all our best efforts are like "filthy rags" ([reference{Isaiah 64:6}{Isaiah 64:6}](#)) and amount to nothing. When we lift up Christ, however, we are no longer ordinary people but key players in God's plan to redeem the world.