

THE ROOT OF CHARACTER: THE FEAR OF THE LORD

The Irreverence of Pride

Foundation Statement: Pride is irreverent -- Proverbs 16:5

I. To walk in reverence towards God we have to be humble before God

A. Humility is reverent and pride is irreverent

1. Pride and Irreverence

- a. Proverbs 16:5 – The abomination of pride
- b. God hates pride (Proverbs 6:17, 8:13)
- c. Proverbs 3:7 – Be not wise in your own eyes (Prideful), reverence God

2. Humility and Reverence

- a. Prov 22:4-Humility & reverence go together and pride & irreverence go together
- b. Proverb 15:33-Before you can honor God you have to humble yourself before him

B. Humility has to do lowering yourself and taking your rightful place under (1 Peter 5:6)

1. Not rising far from the ground, as a condition, lowly, of low degree, lowly in spirit, having a humble opinion of one's self, modesty, lowliness of mind, to make low, bring low, to assign a lower rank or place to, to abase, to be ranked below others who are honored or rewarded, to lower, bring down one's pride, to behave in an unassuming manner, devoid of all haughtiness

2. Don't think **more** highly of yourself than you ought to think (Romans 12:3)

- a. In other words take your rightful place – That's humility
- b. Lower yourself under the authority of this word. What it says I am, I am.
 - 1) It's not only prideful to think too highly of yourself, but it's prideful to think too lowly of yourself (In doing so you're saying that you know better than God)

3. Humility has to do with truth and reality (2 Corinthians 12:6)

- a. People who in pride are in deception because they have an untrue estimation of themselves (Obadiah 3)
- b. Pride will try to hide reality in fear & embarrassment & in attempt to impress others

C. Pride has to do with over estimating yourself & underestimating others (Prov 6:17-AMP)

1. Pride – A rising up, swelling (of the sea), majesty, haughtiness, exaltation, arrogance, height, a lifting up, presumption, empty, braggart talk, an insolent and empty assurance, which trusts in its own power and resources, empty presumption, the character of one who, with a swollen estimate of his own powers or merits, looks down on others and even treats them with insolence and contempt
2. Pride has to do with lifting yourself up, being high or lofty; It is an over estimation of your abilities

3. Pride has to do with self-exaltation, usually in false manner; You've exalted yourself to a high place because of your high estimation of yourself

D. Awe-Feeling of amazement & respect coupled w/ feeling of personal insignificance

1. Four IN YOU truths
 - a. In yourself you are nothing-Galatians 6:3; In Him you are something
 - b. In yourself you know nothing-1 Cor 8:2; In Him you know all things-1 John 2:20
 - c. In yourself you have nothing-1 Cori 4:7; In Him you have all things that -2 Peter 1:4
 - d. In yourself you can do nothing-John 15:5; In Him you can do all things-Phili 4:13
2. If you're born again then you're not in yourself anymore & it is very irreverent to walk around saying you are nothing, you know nothing, you have nothing, and you can do nothing b/c u are devaluing what happened in the crucifixion & resurrection.
 - a. False humility is prideful

II. There's something reverent about acknowledging that you need God, you need His word, you need His wisdom, He need His system, you need His anointing

- A. Humility requires God in all that does; Humility sees the need for him in all that it does
 1. Humility recognizes it's need for God daily
 2. Humility recognizes all of the "in myself" lacks and deficiencies and the need for him
 3. Humility is the acknowledgment of your dependence on him
 4. Humility is the absolute necessity for Him in everything that I do, say or think
 5. There's something reverent about humility that says I need to be taught how to live
- B. In their pride my people aren't requiring me; but those who humble themselves and require me will be satisfied
 1. Psalm 22:26 – Require him as your greatest need
 2. Psalm 27:8 – Require him has a necessity
 3. Psalm 105:3 – Require him as an indispensable necessity
 4. Psalm 34:10 – Those who require Him like this will not lack any good thing
 5. Pride says I don't need you, I can do fine by myself
 - a. Pride exalts itself to the high place where it doesn't need God
 6. There's more to showing God that you need Him than just saying, "God I need you."
 - a. You show God you're need for him, by living a slow life and acknowledging Him & including him in every word you speak, every thought you think & every action you make
 - b. I think we'll do this and then you just go do it and didn't even acknowledge God in it; you're in pride because you think you know what to do without Him
- C. The humility of our Master-John 5:19, 30, 6:57, 7:16, 8:28

III. Pride will lead you out of your position and out of your place

- A. Isaiah 14:12-14-We look at this like it's such a foreign thing in the lives of believers, but in reality it's active in the hearts of many believers
 - 1. You exalt yourself above God when u do what u want instead of what he told you
- B. 1 Peter 5:5-10
 - 1. 6-Humility has to do with taking ur rightful place under the authority of God/His word
 - a. This word is right and I'm wrong
 - 2. 6-God doesn't mind you being exalted; he doesn't like you trying to exalt yourself
 - 3. 7-You humble yourself by casting your cares
 - a. You are the caster of cares, He is the caretaker
 - b. You can't take better care of that care than God can
 - c. It's very irreverent and prideful when you take the care b/c in doing so you've exalted yourself to his position; U over estimating yourself & underestimating God
 - d. God didn't grace me to take the care he graced me to cast the care and fear not and believe only
 - e. People who pick up the care are in pride and resisted by God
- C. 2 Corinthians 11:28, 12:5-10
 - 1. 7-Exalted above measure (Define)
 - a. It's through the revelation of the Word that's going to exalt him above measure; that's not him exalting himself
 - 2. 7-When the word is received Satan comes immediately to steal the Word and keep that word from exalting you (Mark 4:15)
 - a. God doesn't have a problem with you be exalted; he's got a problem with you exalting yourself (1 Peter 5:7)
 - 3. 7-The thorn in his flesh was there to torment him
 - a. 1 John 4:18-Fear has torment and without fear present the Tormentor has no torment to torment you with
 - 1) The Apostle Paul wouldn't be available to be tormented if there wasn't fear operating in his life
 - b. 2 Cor 11:28 – The fear that is operating in his life is concerning those churches
 - 1) This is the same word "care" that God tells us to cast upon him in 1 Peter 5:6
 - c. Galatians 1:12 – Paul used the word "thorn" because his revelation of the things of God came from Jesus directly and surely Jesus taught him the greatest parable that he taught the disciples in Mark 4

4. 9-Paul's in a position where he is having a time receiving grace
 - a. Paul's resisting grace because he's in pride taking the care of those churches and God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble (1 Peter 5:5)
5. He was in pride and out of position & exalted himself to God's position of caretaker