

## Pride

The sin of pride has plagued man and angels since the time of their creation. As Christians, we must be diligent to identify this sin in our lives and focus on combating it by any means necessary.

### Starting with Pride

Why start with pride when examining sin? C.S Lewis wrote that pride is the great sin. He said that “If I am a proud man, then as long as there is one man in the whole world more powerful, or richer, or more clever than I, he is my rival and my enemy.”

Webster’s Definition of Pride: the quality or state of being proud: such as. a : inordinate self-esteem : conceit. b : a reasonable or justifiable self-respect. c : delight or elation arising from some act, possession, or relationship parental pride.

Scriptures are clear regarding God’s position on pride and the results of unchecked pride:

- “Everyone who is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD; assuredly, he will not be unpunished.” Proverbs 16:5
- “God is opposed to the proud, but give grace to the humble.” James 4:6  
Isaiah 2:11

What was the sin that made the most beautiful and wise angel fall from heaven? Satan’s fall:

- Ezekiel 28:17

Can church folk also be subject to this? Overseer requirements in 1 Timothy 3:6, “...not a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil.”

### Conceit concealed in a good cause

- What is the problem with Babel? Genesis 11:3-4
- What was the problem with Adam and Eve and the fruit? Genesis 3:5-6
- What is the problem with churches and non-profits? Rooting for Rivals book
- What’s the problem with us?
  - “The wickedest work in this world is symbolized by a looking glass.” G. K. Chesterton

### Israelites

#### Prescription for combating Pride

1. Admit that it could be you.
2. Pray
  - Christ informs us in the Lords Prayer, “Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”
  - Christ prayed to the Father in the Garden of Gethsemane. “Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done.” Luke 22:42

3. Pursue Humility

- “Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you at the proper time...” 1 Peter 4:14
- “For My hand made all these things, thus all these things came into being,” declares the LORD. “But to this one I will look, to him who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at My word.” Isaiah 66:2
- Apostle Paul said that even he was given a thorn in his side to prevent his possible pride
  - “Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me—to keep me from exalting myself!” 2 Corinthians 12:7
  - What “thorns” might be present in your life?

**Conclusion**

The sin of pride has been called one of the least detectable sins by others because it can be concealed with well-meaning goals and objectives. We must all be diligent, however, to search out this sometimes hidden vice in our lives that leads us in opposition to God’s will. We all must submit to His will and His way in order to humbly participate in His divine plan.