

Spiritual Pride - Lesson

Lesson Summary: If we do not humble ourselves, God will take steps to humiliate us and humble us. It is much less painful to do it yourself.

LEVITICUS 26:19 (NIV)

I will break down your stubborn pride and make the sky above you like iron and the ground beneath you like bronze.

Two Types of Pride

1. **Unsubmissive Pride** – They are rebellious to authority. They are confident in their abilities. They think they should be in leadership. They arrogantly place themselves on the same level of leadership as those above them, saying things like “I hear from God, not man”

a) Hebrews 13:17

b) Remedies

- Humbly accept our position under the leaders God has set over us.
- Submit to the leadership of the Pastor set over us as unto God.

2. **Spiritual Pride** – they have a “holier than thou” mentality instead of a mindset of being humble. They imagine themselves to be a spiritual giant. God detests self-righteousness and pride. The problem with the Pharisees was that they acted like they weren’t sinful. Those with spiritual pride judge everyone around them to see if they measure up to their standards. They are always giving others a word from God even though their own lives are full of instability, compromise, or disobedience. They consider themselves to be at a level of maturity above others.

a) Romans 12:3, 16

b) Remedies

- Acknowledge that you cannot make yourself a good person in your own spiritual power. You see yourself as an empty vessel which God must fill.
- It isn’t about high self esteem or low self esteem, for both of those are focused on self. It is about finding your identity in Christ.
- You need to recognize that you are not more righteous than another because you look more righteous. You can’t become more righteous by doing more good things.
- Let your righteousness come only from the gift of God through grace.
- Be constantly trying to think about what others want and need and what would make them feel important and loved.

What are some attitudes that will help you deal with situations in a humble manner?

(Taken from Steve Gallagher’s book At the Altar of Sexual Idolatry)