

PRIDE

Pride sees the wrongs of others but never identifies with their weaknesses. When others fail we should be able to respond, "Yes, I've done that too," or "I understand; if it were not for God's grace I would have done that also."

Pride does not usually admit wrong or personal responsibility. When it does it excuses it or explains it away, and there is no sorrow for the wrong done.

Pride blames others, criticizing and pointing out why they are wrong.

Pride produces hardness, arrogance, self-sufficiency and unhealthy independence.

Pride is more interested in being accepted in the eyes of other people than in being right according to God's standards.

Pride is more concerned with winning arguments than with keeping friends. Pride never says the words, "I am wrong. It is my fault. Will you forgive me?"

Pride breeds a demanding attitude. It focuses on what has not been done for "me" rather than on what has been done for "me". It covets the past or the future, but is never satisfied with the present.

Pride is derisive (mocking, scoffing). Pride says that "my" group or church or denomination has more truth than others.

Pride causes a person to judge situations by what they mean to man and not to God. Pride does not look for God's perspective.

Pride gossips, tears down, ruins reputations, and delights in spreading news of failure and sin.

Pride blames God and other people when things go wrong. Pride excuses bitterness and resentment. Pride leads to pity and pity and more pity.

Pride says that a person can reach a level or depth of spirituality in which one is finally free of pride. It puts its security in a grotesque form of self-righteousness and not in the cross of Jesus Christ.

Pride Bondages:¹

Pride of abase: "I'm proud I'm so humble"

Pride of ace: perfectionist; "No one can do as good a job as I can"

Pride of base: cultural, religious, political, economic base

¹ Spiritual Freedom User Manual by Sharon Currens, list taken from a message by Lou Sutera of the Canadian Revival Fellowship, entitled "Pride Bondages" www.circleofhope.ca/PDF%20Bible%20Studies/sfmanual.pdf

Pride of case: “I’m so glad my situation isn’t like that of my poor struggling brother/sister” or “I have a mental capacity that can case everything”

Pride of face: pride in how I look

Pride of grace: spiritual pride; “I’m glad I’m a faithful attender at all church meetings; it’s too bad others aren’t like me”

Pride of lace: clothing, fashion, style

Pride of mace: good cook

Pride of pace: “Everyone out of the way – I can do it better and faster on my own”

Pride of praise: “People should notice what a good job I’m doing and be appreciative”; more of a people-pleaser than a God-pleaser; love of degrees, titles, position, etc.

Pride of race: “I’m so glad I was born into a culture that doesn’t live like some people do”

Pride of vase: interior decorating; “You can come in, but don’t bring in any dirt and don’t mess anything up”

Dignity: “I can’t do that; it would be beneath me”

Self-righteousness: “That was a wonderful sermon; some people really needed to hear that”

Intellect: “You can’t teach me anything”

Reputation: “I would just die if I had to _____”; “I couldn’t go forward in front of everyone”; “What would people think?”; “I may have been wrong, but I will never admit it”

Position: won’t take a second-place position in the church

Name: protecting the family name is more important than being honest

Self-will: stronger desire to do what I want than what God wants

Independence: “I don’t need God or the cell; I can handle this one on my own”

Control: “If I could just get the others to do _____, we could solve this problem”