

HIS CHURCH LONDON

FREEDOM

PRIDE

LECTURE 10

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INTRODUCTION

Pride is not a demon. It is an attitude of heart that gives place to the devil.

Pride is an image built to cover over the feelings of inner worthlessness.
Pride cannot be separated from rejection.

Isaiah 14:12-14 (NIV)

**12 How you have fallen from heaven, morning star, son of the dawn!
You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the
nations!**

**13 You said in your heart, “I will ascend to the heavens; I will raise my
throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of
assembly, on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon.**

**14 I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the
Most High.”**

PRINCIPLE REGARDING PRIDE

- Failure to receive love and acceptance leaves a vacuum out of which rejection grows.
- Out of a rejection vacuum will grow a strong root of pride.
- Pride comes to compensate for rejection and builds its own self-image.
We build our own image of pride.



THE IMAGE OF PRIDE

- The "image" of pride is built to cover worthlessness. When a person has no self-worth they will construct and believe in an image which they have built.
- The "image" is 2-dimensional, built like a Hollywood stage set. It is not real, but the person comes to believe in it. All their value comes from what they have built.
- The "image" becomes a god. It is very important for the proud person to keep their eyes on the "image" – if they look at their worthlessness, it might destroy them.
- The "image" of pride is a god that must be appeased – must pander to the demands of the "image" instead of to God's Word. This becomes idolatry.
- The "image" becomes an idol because all the person's efforts are devoted to propping it up (me, my achievements etc). They can support the "image" by winning (which feels the best), by putting others down and lifting themselves up, by boasting of what he/she owns, etc.
- Pride wants the "image" to be infallible. This is because the "image" is occupying the place of God and so must bear the image of God. Pride never wants to be wrong – this produces an unteachable spirit.
- It is vitally important that we allow ourselves a margin of error. We can be wrong and still have value and self-worth.



RESULTS OF PRIDE

PERFORMANCE

- Definition: Person who is driven to achieve and maintain a high level of performance – has to excel.
- Description: High performer, works harder, stays longer at his work than anyone else, driven to perform, workaholic.
- Results:
 - The result of performance is that although he/she is a great success at their work, they struggle in their relationships (friends, family, etc).
 - They will perform for God and will relate to God on the basis of their achievements. Sets high (often unrealistic) standards. God's acceptance is received on the basis of their works.
 - Pride makes them think they can please God. **IMPORTANT:** Our relationship to God is never established on the basis of our works, but always on the basis of His grace. He accepts us as we are.

PERFECTIONISM

- Definition: Person who sets up standards for themselves beyond the normal requirements. Through achieving these, they place themselves above others and become critical of those who do not accept the same standards.
- Description: Lack of love, indifference to the needs of others, insensitive, hasty in judgment, sharp in words, critical and impatient.



- Results:
 - A critical spirit, harsh attitude towards self and others which results in severity of character.
 - Self-righteousness and religious pride.
 - Transmits rejection to children, because acceptance is based on performance.
 - Poor relationship to God. Looks upon God as a perfectionist and tries to perform for Him.
 - A life filled with works but no relationship with God.

COMPETITION

- Definition: Constant striving to excel above another – to be first, to be better, to be recognized.
- Description: Selfish, self-willed, self-exalted, ambitious, envious.
- Results:
 - Enmity between people (Gal 5:26). In marriage or ministry competition destroys relationships.
 - Constantly comparing ourselves to others.
 - Jealousy, envy, discontentment.

Galatians 5:26 (NIV)

26 Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.



UNFORGIVENESS

- Description: Unforgiving, bitter, estranged, touchy, angry.
- Results:
 - Guilt and condemnation. Basic problem is that they cannot forgive themselves for the past and so cannot receive God's forgiveness.
 - **IMPORTANT:** Pride will keep them from forgiving themselves because they have broken the "image" built.
 - Bitterness and hatred, blaming others.
 - Blindness and deception. He fails to see himself or others as they really are.
- Note: Pride calls for retribution rather than forgiveness. It upholds a false sense of justice where *self* must be vindicated.

CRITICAL AND SELF-CENTRED

- Definition: Pride requires that the person becomes centred on themselves and on their needs. They demand the central role and become extremely critical of others.
- Description: Critical, judgmental, insensitive to the needs of others, demanding, self-righteous.
- Results:
 - Will destroy a relationship by constant correction or judgment of other person.
 - Will focus on every one else's bad points and his/her good points. Seems blinded to their own failings.
 - Unteachable – finds it difficult to receive correction.



UNBELIEF

- Definition: Pride is independent and self-sufficient. To believe, one must acknowledge a need and/or limitation. Unbelief seeks to establish its independence so that no-one else is needed. Pride is the root of unbelief.
- Description: Independent spirit, self-sufficient, finds it difficult to receive, untouchable.
- Results:
 - Striving for results from God. Seeks His blessings. Faith grows from humility. Humility and faith seek the goodness of God.
 - Desires glory of man rather than glory of God.

HOW TO CUT THE ROOT OF PRIDE

- Ask God to show you the deception of pride.
- Receive the truth that your self-worth and value comes from God and not from who you are or what you achieve.
- Repent of the sin of pride.
- Release the "image" of pride – let God break the "image" so that He can develop & reveal the true person that you are made to be in Him.
- Change the motivation of your heart from pride to love.

CONCLUSION

- The root of every sin and evil is pride. Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is liberty.
- Humility frees us to be ourselves whereas pride binds us to a façade.
- Pride comes out of the heart and is dealt with primarily through repentance.