

Too Proud to Admit?

I will ascend to the heavens; I will set up my throne above the stars of God. I will sit on the mount of the god's assembly, in the remotest parts of the North. I will ascend above the highest clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.
Isaiah 14:13-14 (HCSB)

Today we do battle with the Sickness Within called _____.

3 Types of Sinful Selfish Pride

I'm _____ than you pride.

Luke 18: 11-13.

I can handle it _____ pride.

Luke 15:11-12, 17-19

It doesn't apply to _____ pride.

2 Samuel 12: 4,7

The prouder you are, the further you fall from God.

The closer you are to God,
the more humble and broken you become.

***Will you decide today
to draw close to God?***

Many diseases can be present in our bodies without us even knowing we are sick. Those sicknesses progress unchecked unless we have an annual check-up, screening exams, or other tests to detect them.

In this series of messages, we're looking at spiritual sicknesses within. We're letting God's Word detect spiritual sicknesses in our lives of which we may not even be aware.

ANGER: Drop sinful anger and let sanctified anger motivates us to action.

ENVY: Celebrate God's goodness in other's lives and embrace God's goodness in your life.

TODAY: A sickness called PRIDE.

How many of you deal with pride?
(HANDS)

Sure, we all deal with pride at some level, at some time or another

Group picture, who do you look for 1st?

If you don't look good, it's a bad pic

If you look good, no matter what everyone else looks like, good pic.

The 1st example of pride in all history:

Isaiah 14: *Shining morning star, how you have fallen from the heavens! You destroyer of nations, you have been cut down to the ground.¹³ You said to yourself: I will ascend to the heavens; I will set up my throne above the stars of God. I will sit on the mount of the [gods'] assembly, in the remotest parts of the North. I will ascend above the highest clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.”* Isaiah 14:12-14 (HCSB)

5X *I Will* . . .

Let me ask you a question about life: ***Is it all about us, or is it going to be about Him, God?***

Pride is when we think we're hot but we're not. There are so many Scripture verses that speak of this inner sickness:

Pride comes before destruction, and an arrogant spirit before a fall. Prov 16:18 (HCSB)

Everyone with a proud heart is detestable to the LORD; be assured, he will not go unpunished. Prov 16:5 (HCSB)

Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted. Matt 23:12 (HCSB) (Jesus)

God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.¹ 1 Peter 5:5 (HCSB)

But Pastor, I'm proud of my kids, my church, proud of America, other good things. Is that wrong?

That's a different kind of pride.

We're talking about selfish, sinful self-focused, sickness pride.

3 Kinds of that kind of pride

1st: I'M BETTER THAN YOU PRIDE.

You're not as good as I am.

I'm better than you.

Like story of lady who came to her pastor, *I guess I'm dealing with pride and vanity because every time I walk in the church I look at all the other women and say to my self, "I'm so much more beautiful than all of them."*

Pastor responded, *Honestly, ma'am, that's not pride. That's a mistake.* (I'm not sure what happened to the Pastor).

How does this kind of pride show itself?

A. Critical attitude or critical heart.

Always criticizing.

Look at the way she (he) does that.

She's not as _____ as I am.

He not as _____ as he should be.

A reflection of a proud heart.

B, Another way "better than you" pride shows up is spiritual pride.

We worship God the "right" way.

We have the genuine truth.

I'm holier than you.

Jesus told story; Religious Man (Pharisee) and a tax collector.

I think you that I'm not like this tax collector look at all my religion (pray, tithe, don't touch unclean-ness.

Tax collectors were hated, it was the patriotic thing to do to hate tax collectors.

The Sunday School teacher told that story to his 5th grade boys and asked, *What's the moral of the story?*

Boy, I thank God I'm not like that Pharisee!

How many of us pray the prayer of that 5th grader?

The POINT: **God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.**

2nd: I CAN HANDLE IT MYSELF PRIDE.

Is this your kind of pride?

Well, I just don't want to bother anybody. I can do it myself.

If you find it **difficult to receive** help someone wants to give you; or if someone wants to give you something.

Off and on prayer life. (Deep down, You're saying you don't need God! You think you can do life without Him.)

Spiritual equivalent, *I don't need to ask directions.*

You ever had to assemble some piece of furniture, some Christmas toy, DIDN:T read the instructions carefully, had lots of leftover parts. (They're called "idlers")

Only to watch something collapse, break, fall apart?

I like to first do it without instructions; That way I get to do it at least 3 times before I get it right!

No prayer, No Bible study, I don't need Sunday School, discipleship groups, *I don't need God. I can handle it myself.*

Luke 15; Prodigal Sons That's the attitude of the **younger son**. *Dad, you're cramping my style. You don't know. I want share of the stuff, I'll live my way.*

Bible: *When he came to his senses . . .
Pride comes before a fall.
God opposes the proud.*

I can handle life myself, my way. That's why some of you don't have time to get really plugged into the community of faith; You just want a little worship time, but not really time engage with God, the church.

Some of you need to open up and say, *I need help.*

I need a group of other believers.

I need someone to pray with, teach me.

I need to get into a Sunday group, in a church, in touch with God.

1st: I'm better than you.

2nd: I can handle it myself.

The 3rd kind of sinful pride?

3rd: IT DOESN'T APPLY TO ME PRIDE.

Those may be the rules, but they don't apply to me.

Muhammad Ali, flight, *Superman don't need no seatbelt.* Flight Attendant: *Superman don't need no airplane.* We say: *Well, I can. I'm above the rules.* You know the type:

They have 12 items in the 10 item speedy checkout line.

It's less than 10 mph above the speed limit.

Living together is okay.

A little pornography is ok, I'm not lusting after a "real" person.

I know followers of Christ are supposed to forgive, but you don't know what this person did to me.

I know among Christ's followers the greatest of them is the one who serves; but getting involved isn't me; I just go to church, watch, and go home.

You know we're like all that? Because we believe *the rules don't apply to me.*

KIND DAVID WAS LIKE THAT: 2 Samuel. In David's day, kings went off to war to lead their armies. David didn't one time.

Saw a pretty naked woman. Told his servants, *Go get her for me. The rules don't apply to me; I'm king.* Committed adultery. Had his friend, her husband, killed. Murder.

The rules don't apply to me.

God through the prophet Nathan said, **AUTTA-EESH YOU ARE THE MAN.**

Yes, the rules DO apply to you.

Whenever you think the rules don't apply to you, say, **AUTTA-EESH You are the man.**

AUTTA-EESHA You are the woman.

I've got to ask you a question:

Is pride an area of your life where you're in direct rebellion, direct denial, of the truth of God?

Better than others.

Handle it by yourself.

The rules don't apply.

Isaiah 5, The prophet Isaiah was like that. He had been comparing himself to the people; he said, *I'm good, but you stink.*

6x he said, *Woe to you, the people.*

But, when he saw the LORD, everything changed.

Isaiah 6: 1-5

When he saw the Lord high and lifted up, **He was speechless.**

He changed his tune.

*When I saw the Lord, I cried, **WOE IS ME***

Luke 14:11 *For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted." Luke 14:11 (HCSB)*

It's time to humble ourselves before God, and confess the sin of Pride.

Are you too proud to admit **PRIDE?**