

## Seven Deadly Sins – Pride Week 2

Last Week:

The formation of the Seven Deadly Sins.

Helpful to examine our personal sanctification, focus our attention at capital or root sins, address the long-term nature of our sin struggle.

We don't make war with sin to earn salvation. Rather, God has freed us through Christ to walk in righteousness.

**How would you describe the sin of pride?**

**How is pride a type of root sin?**

*C. S. Lewis called pride "the great sin." "According to Christian teachers," he said, "the essential vice, the utmost evil, is Pride. Unchastity, anger, greed, drunkenness, and all that, are mere fleabites in comparison . . . Pride leads to every other vice." In Proverbs 8:13, pride and arrogance top the list of sins that God hates. And Proverbs 16:18 reminds us, "Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall." Whenever and wherever sin wreaks its havoc in human lives, you can be sure that pride is at the root.*

"Hit List" Brian Hedges

### Broadening Our Understanding of Pride

The classic definition:

- A feeling or deep pleasure or satisfaction derived from one's own achievements, the achievements of those with whom one is closely associated, or from qualities or possessions that are widely admired.
- The quality of having an excessively high opinion of oneself or one's importance.

**In my view this is probably the most common understanding of pride. (Especially in a negative use.)**

As understood as a foundation for all 7DS:

- Self-Thoughtfulness: A focus on self, particularly in relation to our glory, capacity, value, achievements.

**Usually through acquiring attention or making comparison. A Self-preoccupation.**

For many pride is what moves us to do or be something. In a way it is our pride, how we feel valuable, that motivates us. Perhaps this is why there seems to be this connection with how we perceive ourselves and our actions, whatever they may be.

### Two questions that expose our pride.

Q1: Where does my success (power) come from?

When we experience success in life we are always crediting that success to something. Our internal dialogue develops a reason for that success. The proud person usually looks to credit themselves.

What is the biblical answer to this question?

Deuteronomy 8:11–18

[11] “Take care lest you forget the LORD your God by not keeping his commandments and his rules and his statutes, which I command you today, [12] lest, when you have eaten and are full and have built good houses and live in them, [13] and when your herds and flocks multiply and your silver and gold is multiplied and all that you have is multiplied, [14] then your heart be lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, [15] who led you through the great and terrifying wilderness, with its fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground where there was no water, who brought you water out of the flinty rock, [16] who fed you in the wilderness with manna that your fathers did not know, that he might humble you and test you, to do you good in the end. [17] Beware lest you say in your heart, ‘My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.’ [18] You shall remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your fathers, as it is this day. (ESV)

1 Chronicles 29:10–13

[10] Therefore David blessed the LORD in the presence of all the assembly. And David said: “Blessed are you, O LORD, the God of Israel our father, forever and ever. [11] Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all. [12] Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. [13] And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name. (ESV)

**What are some practical ways we can live consistent with this understanding?**

**What would be potential manifestations of inconsistency?**

Self-sufficiency: Over and over in the OT God condemns the behavior of men who look at their own success as not a result of God but as a result of their own strength, power and ability.

Theme in Minor Prophets... Forgetting who brought success and power and why.

Twice in the Psalms (14-53) declares, "A fool says in his heart there is no God." When we behave as though God wasn't real.

Q2: How do I receive affirmation of my value?

The biblical answer would be that we are valuable because we are created by God in the image of God. We are valuable because Christ has redeemed us and thereby given us value. We are adopted in as children of God. We have been made into new creations. We have value because we are partnered with God in pursuing what has true value, his glorious fame.

Even though we may acknowledge all these things are true, often we can still feel they are not enough. We look for affirmation apart from these things.

What happens when God is not enough?

We can look outside of God for value in a number of ways.

Side A, has success and failure. Certainly we expect success to be there but also failure. Blame of others and self-pity can be pride simply wearing a different mask.

Side B, has inward thoughts and outward performances. Pride can be held internally in our thoughts of ourselves and others, like Mr. Darcy from Pride and Prejudice or pride can be more obvious like we observe from infamous athletes or outspoken social influencers.

	Outward Performance	Inward Thoughts
In Success	Boast, Retell, Smack Talk	Thinking you're better. (Morally, physically, etc.)
In Failure	Complain, Defend, Blame, Dismiss	Shame (Comparison), Self-Pity

### Diverse Manifestations of Pride

Outward Performance:

Self-promotion... Building myself up... Exalting actions, Justify failures.

Basically self advertising... Selling ourselves as valuable.

The name dropper. The story topper. The provocative dresser.

Pharisees are great examples. Matthew 6:16 – Fasting to be noticed.

Biblical name is a boaster.

Jeremiah 9:23–24

[23] Thus says the LORD: “Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, [24] but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD.” (ESV)

Matthew 6:1

[1] “Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. (ESV)

Confession is good for the soul... James 5:16

**How are we prone to seek our value from others?**

You’re under no pressure. I encourage you to carefully consider your motive in sharing. However, I want this class to be a place where we make progress not just make notes.

I know for me, I am tempted to pride when others admire my life.

Inward Thoughts:

Self-righteous

When I become confident that I am above others, morally.

Smug. Standoffish. More spiritually mature.

Luke 18:9–14

[9] He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: [10] “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. [11] The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. [12] I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’ [13] But the tax collector, standing far off, would

not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' [14] I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted." (ESV)

### Self-concern

Thinking of themselves before others.

Mark 10 - Disciples worried about what seat they would have in heaven. Greatest is the servant.

### Self-pity

Do you ever feel uncomfortable around those more educated than you? Do you avoid participation in games or sports out of fear of looking stupid? Do you secretly criticize people who are more physically attractive? Are you afraid of what people think of you?

These things are also manifestations of pride, appearing not as conceit, but self-pity. Through comparison, we are self-thoughtful. Even if that self-obsession is negative.

Insecurity is a low view of self but it is still us looking in the wrong direction for worth.

Probably we are thinking people are thinking more about us than they actually are.

Some may even publically practice self-pity to receive the affirmation of others.

**Does it ever matter what someone thinks?** Should I be constantly indifferent? You're mad, don't care. You appreciate me, don't care.

The world? No, not really, they won't understand what drives us.

The church? Sometimes, if they are weighing our action in reference to God's instructions. For the right reasons, accountability, celebrations of God's grace pouring out in our lives. Not for comparison to others. Not to affirm worth.

God? Certainly. God is our right audience. It is God's opinion that should matter the most. An opinion that we learn through God's Word is rooted in our relationship to the truths of the Gospel.

## Additional subsets of pride

Vainglory – Desperate for praise regardless of merit or source. This is one of the original 8 sins that got enfolded into the larger description of pride and yet certainly there are times when some of us don't seem to care where or why the praise is coming we want it. This can often be true in the area of physical attention.

Ambition – Desperate for praise from certain people for certain things. This might be the pride of a workaholic. Even seeking of the approval of “the cool kids” whoever they may be.

## How do we shift our broken thinking?

Pride is basically a wrong perception of our own ability. The antidote to that wrong perception is humility expressed through gospel-dependence.

Justine's imagery... Not about balance between having too high a view or too low a view. It is about getting off that track of thinking all together. We need to be thinking about God's worth not our worth.

God is the one who defeats our pride. (Appropriate, can't boast)

### 1. Through Conversion

Helping us see our moral and spiritual poverty.

2 Corinthians 4:4

[4] In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. (ESV)

*Those who see the cross rightly see themselves rightly. We see him on the cross, and we see our sin. The cross reveals what we deserve from God. We cannot receive the grace of Christ apart from seeing and embracing the undeserved disgrace of Christ. The cross decimates our proud pretensions and our smug, self-righteous sense of rightness before (and even above) God.*

“Killjoys” Jason Meyer

Romans 3:21–26

[21] But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—[22] the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe.

For there is no distinction: [23] for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, [24] and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, [25] whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. [26] It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. (ESV)

A poor homeless person who is invited to stay in the lavish house of his rich friend has no reason for pride, just gratitude.

## 2. Through Christ's Sanctifying Work

We learn to boast in our weakness and point others to His strength

Romans 15:17–18

[17] In Christ Jesus, then, I have reason to be proud of my work for God.  
[18] For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me... (ESV)

2 Corinthians 12:8–10

[8] Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. [9] But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. [10] For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong. (ESV)

Feeling strong can lead to a cesspool of self-sufficiency and independence that leads us away from God. Feeling weak is the best garden for the flowering of dependence upon God's sufficient grace.

We are being conformed to the likeness of Christ by the presence and power of the HS in us. Our sanctification is not reason for pride because sanctification is enablement.

Ultimately in our coming glorification

1 John 3:2–3

[2] Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. [3] And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure. (ESV)

The antidote to pride is to become mesmerized by God's awesomeness.

*Humility flows from this double awareness of God's glorious holiness and our spiritual poverty. When we've been humbled, we become less consumed with ourselves. When our hearts are captured by the radiance of God's beauty and the glory of his holiness, we are less inclined to boast in ourselves, less concerned with what people think of us, and less prone to think we are better than others. The cancerous sins of self-promotion, self-pity, and self-righteousness will begin to wither and die in the radiation of God's glory.*

*But we not only need to be humbled, we need to boast in something better. Our hearts are glory vacuums, and we will only escape the gravitational pull of our inwardly imploding selves if there is a more powerful force holding our hearts in orbit. That's why the counsel of Scripture isn't only, "do not boast," but also "boast in the Lord" (See Psalm 34:2; Jeremiah 9:23–24; 1 Corinthians 1:26–31).*

*"Hit List" Brian Hedges*

*In other words, humility is fundamentally a form of self-forgetfulness as opposed to pride's self-fixation. And humility's self-forgetfulness has a certain flavor: joy. It's not dour or sour. The joy of self-forgetfulness comes when a superior satisfaction in God overpowers our self-preoccupation. Humility does not join pride in treating others with contempt. We are too busy looking up at God's glory to look down on others or feel smug about ourselves. And unlike pride, humility does not have to be the center of attention. Humility is not self-promoting; it enjoys pointing out evidences of grace in others. It can celebrate their accomplishments.*

*"Killjoys" Jason Meyer*

**Look at God, admire, appreciate and repeat.**