**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | The Problem with Pride |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Proverbs 16:18-19 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2223 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. Pride is a problem that we all wrestle with.
      1. Those who think they do not have it probably have more of it.
   2. Proverbs 16:18
   3. Pride is a very dangerous sin that is doing more to hold back revival than any other sin.
      1. It is doing more to destroy homes than any other sin.
      2. It is doing more to ruin this nation than any other sin.
      3. It is causing more Christians to live in failure and defeat than any other sin.
      4. It is filling Hell more than any other sin.
   4. The worst thing about pride is that it is such a deceitful sin.
      1. Many people who are infected with pride have no idea that they are.
         1. A thief knows he is a thief.
         2. But many times, the proud person does not recognize that he or she is proud.
   5. A proud person is often very proud of his humility.
      1. Luke 18:9-14
   6. We need to learn what pride is not.
      1. Pride is not having a good self-image.
         1. In Jesus, we are somebody.
            1. Jesus is not ashamed to call us His brothers and sisters.

Matthew 12:50

We are next of kin to the Holy Trinity.

* + - * 1. Some people say that they are just sinners saved by grace.

That technically is true, but that is not the Bible description of us.

The Bible description of us is that we are the righteousness of God in Christ.

1 Corinthians 1:30

* + - 1. John 13:3-5
         1. This passage of Scripture gives us a picture of humility.
         2. Jesus did not think lowly of Himself.

He knew that He came from God.

He knew that He was going to God.

But knowing all of that, He washed the disciples’ feet.

* + - * 1. Humility is not thinking lowly of ourselves; it is not thinking of ourselves.
    1. Pride is not gratefulness for a job well done.
       1. We often say that someone takes pride in his work.
          1. This is not the kind of pride we are talking about.
          2. We ought to do a good job.
       2. When a job is done well and we get recognition for it, this is not what we are talking about when we talk about pride.
  1. Pride is the most destructive thing in the universe.
  2. What is pride?
     1. Pride is an attitude of independence from God.
        1. Thinking that we do not need God.
        2. Thinking that we can handle it ourselves.
        3. If we do not pray regularly, then prayerlessness is not our great problem; it is that we do not feel the need to pray.
           1. Prayerlessness is a spirit of independence from God.
           2. If we are wrestling with prayerlessness, then we are really wrestling with pride.
     2. Pride is a spirit of ungratefulness to God.
        1. God has so blessed us.
           1. We have so many things.

We act like we deserve it and have earned it, and it is ours.

* + - * 1. 1 Corinthians 4:7

Some may say that they worked for what they have.

Who gave us the ingenuity to work?

Who gave us the strength and energy?

We do not have one thing that we have not received.

* + 1. Pride is esteeming ourselves better than other people.
       1. This is thinking that we are better than somebody else because we have achieved certain things or have certain things.
       2. Pride esteems one’s self better than others.
  1. Indicators of a proud person:
     1. A proud person becomes irritated when corrected for mistakes.
     2. A proud person accepts praise for things over which he or she has no control, such as beauty, talent, and abilities.
        1. Those are gifts.
     3. Pride will not admit mistakes.
        1. There is always an excuse, an alibi, an attempt to justify one’s self.
     4. When there’s a disagreement, pride says, “I can get along without you.”
     5. Pride refuses to take counsel and to learn from other people.
     6. Pride has an ungrateful spirit for all that God has done.
     7. Pride often shows itself in competition with other people.
     8. Pride does not want more; pride wants more than somebody else.
        1. C.S. Lewis said that pride gets no pleasure out of having something, only out of having more of it than the other man.
           1. We say that people are proud of being rich, clever, or good looking, but they are not.

They are proud of being richer, more clever, or better looking than the others.

* + - * 1. It is the comparison than makes us proud.

The pleasure of being above the rest.

* 1. Today’s message will discuss five things that pride will do to ruin and devastate our lives.

1. Pride defies god (proverbs 6:16-19)
   1. Pride is a fist in the face of God.
   2. Proverbs 6:16-19
      1. This passage of Scripture lists seven things that God hates.
         1. Number one on the list is pride.
   3. Why does God hate pride?
      1. Proverbs 16:5
         1. If we are proud, then we are abominable to God.
      2. It was pride that created the devil.
         1. It turned Lucifer, the son of the morning, into Satan, the father of night.
         2. Satan’s kingdom is built on pride.
            1. No wonder pride defies God.
         3. 1 Timothy 3:6
            1. The Apostle Paul was giving young Timothy the standard for a preacher.
            2. One of the prime requisites for a preacher is humility.

A wise man once said that nothing will keep a minister more out of the devil’s reach than genuine humility.

* + - * 1. The Bible says that he cannot be a novice; that is, new, untrained, unseasoned.
      1. Pride made the devil the devil.
    1. Pride ruined the human race.
       1. In the Garden of Eden when Satan came to tempt Eve, the temptation was not to taste a particular kind of fruit.
          1. The Garden was full of fruit.
       2. Genesis 3:5
          1. The temptation was to be as God.
       3. It was the same thing that caused Satan to fall, that ruined the human race, and brought sin into the world.
          1. Pride defies God.
       4. All the heartache, tears, sorrow, war, strife, pain, agony, and shame are caused by pride.
    2. God is against this matter of pride.
    3. C.S. Lewis said that as long as we are proud, we cannot know God.
       1. A proud man is always looking down on things and people.
       2. As long as we are looking down, we cannot see something above us.
       3. Someone who is looking down on others is not looking up at God at the same time.
  1. 1 Peter 5:5
     1. Grace is both the desire and the ability to do the will of God.
     2. We all need grace, but grace and pride are antithetical.
     3. “God resists the proud.”
        1. It is not that God merely does not help the proud, but God lines Himself up in battle array against the proud.
           1. Is that what we want God to do to us?
  2. The first thing pride will do to destroy our lives is to defy God.

1. pride defiles man (proverbs 16:5)
   1. Pride comes out of the heart.
      1. The heart is the seat of pride.
   2. Proverbs 16:5
   3. Proverbs 21:4
      1. A person who would plow his field without giving God thanks for the sun, the germinating qualities, and for the rain is proud.
         1. That person is self-sufficient.
      2. The Bible says that if we have pride, even when we plow a field, that it is sin.
   4. We are born with pride.
      1. Mark 7:21-22
         1. It comes out of the heart.
      2. Little children are born with pride, ego, and selfishness in their hearts.
         1. These things are not learned.
         2. They are part of human nature.
         3. Jesus said that they come out of the heart.
      3. We need to be saved and born again.
         1. When we were born the first time, we were born with a nature that is inclined to pride.
2. pride divides society (Proverbs 13:10)
   1. There has never been an argument, a war, a divorce, or a church split where pride was not the major factor.
   2. Proverbs 13:10
   3. Proverbs 28:25
   4. James 4:6
      1. God resists the proud.
   5. If God resists the proud, then the proud person is out of fellowship with God.
      1. Anyone who is out of fellowship with God is going to be out of fellowship with other people.
   6. Arguments are about pride.
      1. The arguments you have with your spouse are ego against ego.
         1. There are no problems too big to be solved, just people too small to solve them.
      2. If we would attack the problem rather than one another, then we could solve the problem.
         1. But we are not trying to solve the problem; we are trying to win the argument.
      3. It does not matter whether we are right or wrong.
         1. We might be right, and we are still the problem because of our attitude, which is pride.
      4. If it were not for the grace of God, then we could not apologize and ask forgiveness because of the natural inclination of the human heart for pride.
      5. Proverbs 13:10
   7. If there is contention in your home, then pride is the issue.
      1. The problem is ego against ego.
      2. If we take ego off the throne and put Jesus Christ on the throne of our lives and our spouse does the same, then the Jesus in our spouse is not going to fight the Jesus in us.
         1. The Jesus in both is going to be able to take care of the problem.
   8. Pride is the chief cause of misery in society.
   9. The problem between races is pride.
      1. And God is dead set against it.
3. pride dishonors life (proverbs 11:2)
   1. The proud person wants praise, honor, and esteem.
      1. But what he gets through pride is dishonor.
         1. Pride dishonors life.
   2. Proverbs 11:2
   3. Proverbs 15:33
      1. Humility comes before honor, not pride.
   4. Proverbs 18:12
   5. Proverbs 29:23
   6. It is ironic that the very thing the proud person wants, to be praised, vaunted, and honored, is the very thing that he loses.
      1. He loses the admiration of others.
      2. The proud person always ends up with contempt, not admiration.
   7. Someone once said that conceit is a disease that makes everybody sick except the one who has it.
      1. But the truth of the matter is that the person full of conceit is the sickest of all.
   8. Jesus taught us that the way up is down, and the way down is up.
      1. Isaiah 14:13-16
         1. In this passage, God is speaking to Lucifer.
         2. Satan was saying that he was going to be like the Most High.
         3. Satan was saying, “I, I, I.”
      2. Philippians 2:5-9
         1. When we follow Jesus Christ in genuine humility, rather than Satan and his arrogance, then we are going to be given a greater position than Satan had before he fell.
            1. 1 Corinthians 6:3

Scripture says that we will judge angels.

Satan is a fallen angel.

* 1. The very thing that people want, they lose.
     1. Pride dishonors life.

1. pride destroys souls (Proverbs 15:25)
   1. Pride populates Hell.
   2. Pride ultimately destroys all that it controls; it is the road to ruin.
   3. Proverbs 15:25
   4. Proverbs 16:18
   5. Proverbs 18:12
   6. The seeds of eternal destruction are in pride.
   7. No one can be saved apart from the grace of God, but God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble.
      1. 1 Peter 5:5
   8. Pride is the road to ruin:
      1. National ruin
         1. America is so proud.
         2. 2 Chronicles 7:14
      2. Domestic ruin
         1. There are congregations that have families that are breaking apart because of pride.
      3. Financial ruin
         1. Some people are in financial bondage.
            1. They buy things they cannot afford in order to keep up with their neighbors.
      4. Emotional ruin
         1. A proud person’s emotions are going to be very thin because they are controlled by circumstances.
      5. Spiritual and eternal ruin
         1. The reason some people cannot have their ministry blessed is because they are too big for God to use.
            1. We can be too big for God to use, but we can never be too small for God to use.
   9. Pride destroys souls and is filling Hell.
   10. Luke 18:9-14
       1. Jesus told about a publican and a Pharisee who went to the temple to pray.
       2. The publicans were tax collectors and very crooked and dishonest.
          1. The Jews hated them because they worked for Rome, and Israel had been occupied by the Roman government and Roman law.
       3. The Pharisees were the religious of the religious.
       4. The Bible says that the Pharisee prayed with himself.
          1. Luke 18:11
          2. God was not hearing his prayer.
       5. The Bible says that the publican smote himself upon the breast and would not even lift his eyes to Heaven.
          1. Luke 18:13
          2. He saw himself as the chief of sinners.
       6. Jesus said that two men went to church that day; one went home dignified, and the other went home justified.
          1. Each of us will go home one of those two ways: dignified or justified.
             1. Romans 3:23
2. CONCLUSION
   1. 1 Peter 5:5
   2. The grace of God is sufficient for everyone.
      1. There is no one so bad that God will not save them.
         1. The blood of Jesus Christ, God’s Son, cleanses from all sin.
         2. If you want to be saved, then God will save you instantaneously and keep you eternally.
      2. There is no one so good they need not be saved.
   3. Lay your intellectual and moral pride in the dust.
      1. Openly and publicly give your heart to Jesus Christ today.
         1. Come just as you are.
         2. His blood was shed for you.
   4. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   5. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16