

**“PRIDE”**  
**Seven Deadly Sins Series - 7**  
**Deuteronomy 6:4-8; Proverbs 16:5; 18**  
**Holiday Island Presbyterian Church**  
**April 14, 2019**

**INTRODUCTION:**

**This morning, we turn our attention to the last sin  
in our series on the Seven Deadly Sins: the sin of PRIDE.**

**The character on Gilligan’s Island  
who personifies Pride is, of course, the Professor.**

**It was the Professor who could take two coconut shells  
and manage to make a ham radio out of it.**

**Anytime anyone needed anything on the island,  
they turned to the Professor  
who, with a modicum of false modesty would simply say:  
“Let me see what I can do.”**

**One wonders, if the Professor was so talented  
he could create all sorts of gadgets from basically nothing . . .  
. . . why did he never manage to get them off the island?  
Was it his “pride” that held them captive?**

**DEFINITION:**

**Pride is having too much self-esteem -**

- often arising out of our own warped sense of self-worth -**
- thinking our intrinsic value is greater than it is-**
- we are somehow worth more than someone else.**

**In short,**

- we think more of ourselves than of others**
- our skills and talents are better than others
  - our wealth and power are greater than others -
  - our status is higher than others

**Pride is a lofty self-respect totally apart from reality;  
high esteem for oneself from some imagined or real superiority.**

**Pride is a sickness . . .**

**. . . if infects the prideful person . . .**

**. . . and then makes everyone else sick!**

**Have you ever gotten one of those annual newsletters  
that folks include in their Christmas cards  
that are just filled with the family's success,  
how the children have won awards and scholarships,  
new cars, country club memberships . . .  
. . . on and on . . . with their bragging.**

**Once you get past the *arrogance* in that letter . . .  
. . . it smacks of pride!**

### **TYPES OF PRIDE:**

**Well, is *all* pride bad?**

**- No.**

**There are different types of pride.**

**Patrick Morley - author of Man in the Mirror - described two types  
of pride.**

**He gave them very catchy names: Type I and Type II**

**TYPE I PRIDE - can be summarized by Galatians 6:4**

**“Each one should test his own actions. Then he can take pride in**

himself, without comparing himself to somebody else . . .”

**Instead of testing our self-worth**

**by comparing what we have accomplished**

**and what we have accumulated to others**

**we should engage in healthy self-examination.**

**“Healthy self-examination . . .”**

**That does *not* mean we compare ourselves to others.**

**From time to time,**

**I get a newsletter from the military school from which I graduated.**

**- it contains news of some of the my classmates.**

**It is a *very* humbling experience!**

**There is always news of another classmate who is now a retired**

**ADMIRAL!**

**Or news about the class clown who just bought another company!**

**Or the little rich kid who opened another hotel in Bermuda!**

**Comparison with those guys is deadly!**

**The question is not am I doing as well as they are.**

**The question is: am I living up to my own capacity?**

**Am I doing the will of God**

**with the resources God has given me?**

**To answer “Yes” is not being prideful - it is being faithful.**

**Everyone wants to feel good about himself/herself.**

**Everyone is entitled - and encouraged -**

**to take pride in his/her craftsmanship.**

**We should all work as though we would personally sign our work  
at the end of each day  
and testify that we did our very best.**

**Is that sinful?**

**No, I don't think so.**

**We should all be very proud of our families.  
We should be able to recognize their Godly worth.**

**Is that sinful?**

**No, I don't think so.**

**It is *not* prideful**

**to compare ourselves to the standard God sets for us . . .  
. . . to feel good about what we have done  
with the resources God has given us.**

**There is another kind of pride - TYPE II PRIDE -**

**- sinful pride - best summarized by Deuteronomy 8:12-14:**

**“ . . . when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine  
houses and settle down,<sup>[13]</sup> and when your herds and flocks  
grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you  
have is multiplied,<sup>[14]</sup> then your heart will become proud  
and you will forget the Lord your God, who brought you out  
of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.”**

**The problem with this type of sinful pride**

**is that it results from comparing ourselves to other humans  
rather to what God has called us to be.**

**It is the sin of comparing our human accomplishments  
to the accomplishments of others**

**The question that sinful pride asks is:  
What do I have to show for my efforts?**

**The question which *should* be asked is:  
Have I been faithful to God's call?  
Have we forgotten  
that God has priority over all other claims in our lives?**

**BALANCING PRIDE:**

**There is a very delicate balance  
between being satisfied and being prideful.**

**If we have too little pride -  
- it can lead us to low self-esteem and self-loathing  
which may eventually lead to a host of other problems -  
- some of them quite self-destructive.**

**Too much pride and it becomes narcissistic  
- arrogant, vain, and sinful.**

**When Johnny Carson introduced Howard Cosell on the Tonight  
Show, he said, "Here's Howard Cosell, a legend in his own mind."**

**SPIRITUAL SIDE OF PRIDE:**

**Sinful pride pushes God right out of the picture -  
sinful pride insists: "My will be done,"**

**A proud person worships a God of his/her own making -**

**- if, indeed, he/she worships anything at all.**

**The God who is at the center of a proud person's worship  
is a God who has met all the desires of that person  
- a God who has singled that person out to bless above all  
others.**

**Every Christian should long to hear God say:  
“Well done, my good and faithful servant.”  
The goal is to please God -  
- to manifest our love for God through our service.**

**The proud Christian says to him/herself -  
“Look how well I did! God must be really pleased with me!”**

**The most damaging effect of sinful pride  
is that it ALWAYS leads to contempt of others!!!**

**Where God commands us to “love one another”  
To live in harmony and unity with each other  
Pride drives us to compete with one another.**

**We mistakenly begin to feel like we *earned* something . . .  
. . . or that we *deserve* something!**

**Left unattended,  
prideful sins slowly but surely  
begin to sap the spiritual life from our soul  
and the joy from our hearts.**

**Pride is the dandelion of the soul.  
And if you've ever fought dandelions in your yard,  
you'll immediately appreciate this illustration!**

**The sin of pride has roots which grow deeply into our souls;  
if you leave only a little of it behind when you yank it out -  
- it sprouts again.**

**If you fail to deal with the dandelion  
and allow it to flower and go to seed -  
- it spreads all over your yard -  
- and the neighborhood!**

**The seeds of pride lodge in the tiniest of cracks in our hearts and  
minds -  
- and they feed off the fertility of our imagination.**

**And then it just keeps on producing -  
- and reproducing - and reproducing!**

**Sooner or later -  
- if pride is left unexamined and unchecked -  
- a person can become so filled with pride -  
- that it is even reflected in his/her approach to grace!**

**Paul was aware of this,  
for he warned those in the church at Ephesus -  
- and by extension, he warned us:**

**“By grace you are saved through faith, and that not of yourselves. It is the gift of God, not of works *lest anyone should boast.*” (Ephesians 2:8-9)**

**It may sound silly, but we can actually grow so prideful that we begin to convince ourselves that somehow we *earned* our salvation!**

**Well, there is good news.**

**They tell me dandelions make great salads!  
Although I will tell you from a wine tasting in the Amanas -  
- dandelions make a wine that tastes pretty much  
like licking the blades of your lawnmower!**

**I know from experience  
that a good dose of “Round-up” in early spring  
will go a long way to eradicate dandelions from your yard.**

**In the same way,  
if we are diligent in our self-examination . . .  
. . . if we are aware of the pride that lurks in our soul  
. . . and if we aggressively rid it from our hearts . . .  
. . . we *will* grow much closer to God.**

**It might help to think of pride in this manner:**

***Talent is God-given, so be humble.***

**God's gifts are not on shelves one above the other  
so that the taller you grow the easier you reach them.  
They are on shelves one below the other  
so that by bending lower you get God's best.**

***Fame is human-given, so be grateful.***



**Flattery is like perfume:  
it is meant to be sniffed, not swallowed.  
It quickly becomes addictive.  
Pride enslaves us to the opinions of others.  
What they think controls our lives.**

*Conceit is self-given, so be careful.*  
**Abraham Lincoln once described a steamboat.  
He said it had a six foot boiler and a nine foot whistle.  
Every time the whistle blew  
it took so much steam the engine stopped.**

**CONCLUSION:**

**There is good news for those of us  
who suffer from the sin of pride.**

**First of all, God is on our side.  
God gave us a natural defense against the sin of PRIDE.**

**Look at how we are constructed...  
We are created in such a way  
we can neither pat ourselves on our backs  
or kick ourselves in the seat of our pants!**

**Second,  
we have been given a written record of what God expects of us -  
- and lots of parables from Jesus to guide us.**

**If we earnestly seek to do the will of God -  
- and if we are quick to give the glory to God -  
- then we are less likely to fall prey to the sin of pride.**

**Perhaps the best piece of advice I can offer on pride  
comes from that great preacher C. H. Spurgeon.**

**He said:**

**“Be not proud of Race, Face,  
Place, Or grace!”**

**If we will focus on God - rather than ourselves  
then the sin of pride will diminish - and disappear.**

**There’s good advice in Deuteronomy 6:4-6:**

**Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. [5] Love the  
Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and  
with all your strength.**

**It is very, very difficult to be guilty of the sin of pride  
when we are putting God first in our lives!**

**PRAYER:**

**I want to close this sermon - and this series -  
with a prayer that was written by J. D. Teague.**

**“I was a child playing hide and seek with You.  
And You caught me hiding in the silliest, saddest places,  
behind old grudges,  
under a ton of disappointments,  
tangled in guilt,  
smothered with success,  
choking on sobs that nobody heard.**

**You found me and whispered my name  
and said, ‘You're it!’  
And I believe You meant it.”**