

Doctrine of Pride (part 4)

(cont.)

39. Pride is evil. There are 22 Greek words and 27 Hebrew words for pride. The predominant idea is of "going beyond" reality—which is ultimately ‘Ehyeh/Esse. The reason that pride (and its manifestation in boasting) is evil is because it is totally apart from God and thus is of the philosophy of Satan—as manifested by his fall. Note in the text below that James does not say boasting is a sin or that it is just “not good;” it is EVIL! From the human perspective pride and boasting does not usually seem so evil, but this is only because all of mankind is evil; it comes “naturally” to us.

James 4:16 But as it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil.

Commentary: In the context of this passage (4:13-16), we have business men who thought they were in control of the future. They were running others down and bragging about themselves, and what they were going to accomplish. The bottom line is that their god was mammon (materialism; the things of kosmos diabolicus). How unfortunate then and now: to see Christians so sucked up in the kosmic system that the most important thing is their work and details of life—just like an unbeliever. They always have time for work and details of life, but doctrine just is not that important to them. Furthermore, the reason many of them fear death is because they do not want to leave their mammon to be with Christ. Is it no wonder that the Lord said of such believers that they made Him want to vomit? Rev. 3:16. Furthermore, what is ironic is that Christians who are successful in business (like those in James 4:13-16) are often very proud about their intelligence, yet they are the stupidest people in the world because as Christians they so put the priority of their lives in temporal things and really have no desire to go be with the Lord. Monetary reversionism will make an idiot out of anyone. Until they turn to the Lord and treasure Him above their mammon, they will always rationalize away their evil. There is no true wisdom or attraction to God apart from doctrine (cf. 1 Cor. 2:1-8).

40. Three sources of pride.

a. Life under the dominating influence of the old-sin-human-good-evil-nature (OSHGEN). Such is person who never even thinks about confessing his daily sins.

Mark 7:20-23, And He was saying, "That which proceeds out of the man, that is what defiles the man. 21 "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, 22 deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness. 23 "All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man."

b. Orientation to kosmos-diabolicus, Satan's system. They will make every sacrifice for kosmos diabolicus, but no time for Bible doctrine and the execution of the spiritual life—except when they get in a bind that threatens their mammon.

1 John 2:16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

James 3:14 But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. 15 This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic

41. In pride there is no *true* capacity for and therefore no appreciation for God's grace blessings. The divine source of blessings is forgotten. The proud person takes all of the credit for his success.

Deuteronomy 8:10-20 "When you have eaten and are satisfied, you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land which He has given you. 11 "Beware lest you forget the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments and His ordinances and His statutes which I am commanding you today; 12 lest, when you have eaten and are satisfied, and have built good houses and lived in them, 13 and when your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and gold multiply, and all that you have multiplies, 14 then your heart becomes proud, and you forget the LORD your God who brought you out from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. 15 "He led you through the great and terrible wilderness, with its fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground where there was no water; He brought water for you out of the rock of flint. 16 "In the wilderness He fed you manna which your fathers did not know, that He might humble you and that He might test you, to do good for you in the end. 17 "Otherwise, you may say in your heart, 'My power and the strength of my hand made me this wealth.' 18 "But you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who is giving you power to make wealth, that He may confirm His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day. 19 "And it shall come about if you ever forget the LORD your God, and go after other gods and serve them and worship them, I testify against you today that you shall surely perish. 20 "Like the nations that the LORD makes to perish before you, so you shall perish; because you would not listen to the voice of the LORD your God.

Deuteronomy 17:14-20 "When you enter the land which the LORD your God gives you, and you possess it and live in it, and you say, 'I will set a king over me like all the nations who are around me,' 15 you shall surely set a king over you whom the LORD your God chooses, one from among your countrymen you shall set as king over yourselves; you may not put a foreigner over yourselves who is not your countryman. 16 "Moreover, he shall not multiply horses for himself, nor shall he cause the people to return to Egypt to multiply horses, since the LORD has said to you, 'You shall never again return that way.' 17 "Neither shall he multiply wives for himself, lest his heart turn away; nor shall he greatly increase silver and gold for himself. 18 "Now it shall come about when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write for himself a copy of this law on a scroll in the presence of the Levitical priests. 19 "And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, by carefully observing all the words of this law and these statutes, 20 that his heart may not be lifted up above his countrymen and that he may not turn aside from the commandment, to the right or the left; in order that he and his sons may continue long in his kingdom in the midst of Israel.

Judges 7:2 And the LORD said to Gideon, "The people who are with you are too many for Me to give Midian into their hands, lest Israel become boastful, saying, 'My own power has delivered me.'

2 Chronicles 32:20 But King Hezekiah and Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, prayed about this and cried out to heaven. 21 And the LORD sent an angel who destroyed every mighty warrior, commander and officer in the camp of the king of Assyria. So he returned in shame to his own land. And when he had entered the temple of his god, some of his own children killed him there with the sword. 22 So the LORD saved Hezekiah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem from the hand of Sennacherib the king of Assyria, and from the hand of all others, and guided them on every side. 23 And many were bringing gifts to the LORD at Jerusalem and choice presents to Hezekiah king of Judah, so that he was exalted in the sight of all nations thereafter. 24 In those days Hezekiah became mortally ill; and he prayed to the LORD, and the LORD spoke to him and gave him a sign. 25 But Hezekiah gave no return for the benefit he received, because his heart was proud; therefore wrath came on him and on Judah and Jerusalem.

Daniel 5:18 "O king, the Most High God granted sovereignty, grandeur, glory, and majesty to Nebuchadnezzar your father. 19 "And because of the grandeur which He bestowed on him, all the peoples, nations, and men of every language feared and trembled before him; whomever he wished he killed, and whomever he wished he spared alive; and whomever he wished he elevated, and whomever he wished he humbled. 20 "But when his heart was lifted up and his spirit became so proud that he behaved arrogantly, he was deposed from his royal throne, and his glory was taken away from him. 21 "He was also driven away from mankind, and his heart was made like that of beasts, and his dwelling place was with the wild donkeys. He was given grass to eat like cattle, and his body was drenched with the dew of heaven, until he recognized that the Most High God is ruler over the realm of mankind, and that He sets over it whomever He wishes. 22 "Yet you, his son, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, even though you knew all this, 23 but you have exalted yourself against the Lord of heaven; and they have brought the vessels of His house before you, and you and your nobles, your wives and your concubines have been drinking wine from them; and you have praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood and stone, which do not see, hear or understand. But the God in whose hand are your life-breath and your ways, you have not glorified.

Hosea 13:1 When Ephraim spoke, there was trembling. He exalted himself in Israel, But through Baal he did wrong and died. 2 And now they sin more and more, And make for themselves molten images, Idols skillfully made from their silver, All of them the work of craftsmen. They say of them, "Let the men who sacrifice kiss the calves!" 3 Therefore, they will be like the morning cloud, And like dew which soon disappears, Like chaff which is blown away from the threshing floor, And like smoke from a chimney. 4 Yet I have been the LORD your God Since the land of Egypt; And you were not to know any god except Me, For there is no savior besides Me. 5 I cared for you in the wilderness, In the land of drought. 6 As they had their pasture, they became satisfied, And being satisfied, their heart became proud; Therefore, they forgot Me.

1 Timothy 6:17 Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy.

James 4:13 Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow, we shall go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit." 14 Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. 15 Instead, you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and also do this or that." 16 But as it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil.

42. There is a critical need for every believer to avail himself of a steady diet of and life in the Word of God, Bible doctrine, Matt. 4:4. Apart from the daily renewing power of the Word of God, there is no chance for any believer to remove pride from his life and thus be enabled to move into the fantastic supergrace life: the life above all dreams, a life under the ministry of the Holy Spirit, who alone gives the believer the power to displace his pride with spiritual humility and understanding, an understanding of God that continues to draw the believer to Him because of who and what He is rather than just some ambiguous deity to take care of him. Pride precludes the ability for anyone to see the greatness of God, let alone be drawn to Him (1 Cor. 2:1-8). Satan is the most illustrative example of this fact. He has no appreciation of God. He does not think that God is worthy to be worshipped for who and what He is. He does not like the Word of God. He does not think humility, fellowship, and spiritual growth are of much value. He does not value fellow believers—sounds like the run of the mill reversionistic believer. Why are they so much like Satan? It is because of their philosophy. One's philosophy always drives the life, all the rest is just the unfolding of that philosophy. Many Christians are saturated with Satan's kosmic philosophy. God help us! Of course, He already has! He has given us His Word which warns us of evil. God warns but never forces anyone to put Him first. He is a God of freedom. He allows believers to choose evil over Him.

1 John 2:15 Do not love the world, nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world/kosmos.

Deuteronomy 17:19 "And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, by carefully observing all the words of this law and these statutes, 20 that his heart may not be lifted up above his countrymen and that he may not turn aside from the commandment, to the right or the left; in order that he and his sons may continue long in his kingdom in the midst of Israel.

1 Corinthians 2:9 but just as it is written, "Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, And which have not entered the heart of man, All that God has prepared for those who love Him." 10 For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. 11 For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man, which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things freely given to us by God,

43. The nature of evil. Evil has no substance. It is nothing: not a thing. It is absence of something that should be there. Examples of physical evil include blindness and rust. Blindness is not a thing, it is absence of sight. Rust is not a thing, it is corruption of something. This is the same as metaphysical evil: it is absence of something that should be there. Absence of living in fellowship, absence of growing in the Word, and absence of trusting God are all lack of what should be there. All it takes to do evil is to do nothing about God and the spiritual life. Pride is the source of evil: it does not need God, it runs the show.

44. Pride does not allow freedom (cf. ancient Egypt, Babylon, and Rome; and most countries in the world today, especially in the Middle East; and in American liberalism). We can see this in our current government which continues to take away the freedom of its citizens for equality. But a nation cannot give both equality and freedom; they are not compossible. The more freedom there is, the less equality there will be. A thought experiment to illustrate this point: What if I was going up against a Michael Jordan in a basketball game. What it would take for things to be equal in that game? One way would be to shorten his limbs or cut one or two of them off. This graphically shows what happens in a nation. In order to make things equal, the government comes in and cuts off the legs of the productive citizens in order to try to make everything equal. It is as asinine as it is brutal, wicked, and evil.