

ILLINOIS LUTHERAN CONFERENCE

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This month's subject for consideration is timely in view of the month which has just passed; June being designated by our country's leaders as "pride month" — by which they openly approve of and celebrate the gross sins of the so-called LGBTQ community. So, this month's topic is: **pride**.

The English word "pride" is found 46 times in the King James Version of the Holy Bible; 3 times in the New Testament and 43 times in the Old Testament. The original Hebrew and Greek words translated into English as "pride" reveal the following meaning to the term, as applied to human beings in the Holy Bible. *Pride = arrogance, haughtiness, elation, puffed-up, self-confidence, and self-conceit.* [from Strong's Hebrew/English and Greek/English dictionaries; Gesenius' Hebrew-Chaldee Lexicon to the Old Testament; Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon; Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon; Liddell & Scott Greek-English Lexicon]

Comment: Interestingly, Noah Webster's 1828 American Dictionary of the English Language, for the most part, defines the term "pride" in the same manner as the aforementioned lexicons. However, later English Dictionaries attach additional (somewhat contradictory) meanings to the term "pride." For example, the 2003 Webster's New World Dictionary defines "pride" as: "1/ a) an unduly high opinion of oneself b) haughtiness; arrogance 2/ dignity and self-respect 3/ satisfaction in something done, owned, etc. 4/ a person or thing in which pride is taken." Notice the 2003 Webster's definition #1 (parts a and b) agrees with how the Holy Bible uses the term "pride"; however, the rest of the given definitions (in principal) tend to excuse self-esteem and arrogance as if such attitudes and behaviors are acceptable. But, let us never forget that the Holy Bible commands: "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves." (Philippians 2:3)

We will now consider how the Holy Bible uses the term "pride"; and consequently, what God's Word actually teaches about **pride**.

"The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate." (Proverbs 8:13)

"When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom." (Proverbs 11:2)

"Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall." (Proverbs 16:18)

"A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit." (Proverbs 29:23)

Comment: Notice that God's Word makes it clear that pride is sinful and leads to other sins— and a great fall. On the other hand, the Lord desires folks to be humble before Him, hating evil. "Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy? But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. Be afflicted, and mourn,

and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.” (James 4:5-10) *Hence, it is plainly evident that we are not to be pride-filled; rather, we are to be humble and penitent, trusting in the Lord and not in ourselves!*

“Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. And they were haughty, and committed abomination before me: therefore I took them away as I saw good.” (Ezekiel 16:49-50)

Comment: Sodom was the gay-capital of the Old Testament world; its inhabitants were proud of being queer, with the exception of a man named Lot, and his wife and daughters. Consequently, it happened that “the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven; And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground.” (Genesis 19:24-25) Thus, the Lord God wiped out the LGBTQ community of Sodom and Gomorrah, with their sinful pride!

“For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.” (Mark 7:21-23)

“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.” (1 John 2:15-17)

Comment: Note well that pride is among the list of evil things which defile a man, coming from man’s sinful heart. The “pride of life” in the sinful world is “of the world” and is NOT OF GOD!

“Why standest thou afar off, O LORD? why hidest thou thyself in times of trouble? The wicked in his pride doth persecute the poor: let them be taken in the devices that they have imagined. For the wicked boasteth of his heart’s desire, and blesseth the covetous, whom the LORD abhorreth. The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts. His ways are always grievous; thy judgments are far above out of his sight: as for all his enemies, he puffeth at them. He hath said in his heart, I shall not be moved: for I shall never be in adversity. His mouth is full of cursing and deceit and fraud: under his tongue is mischief and vanity. He sitteth in the lurking places of the villages: in the secret places doth he murder the innocent: his eyes are privily set against the poor. He lieth in wait secretly as a lion in his den: he lieth in wait to catch the poor: he doth catch the poor, when he draweth him into his net. He croucheth, and humbleth himself, that the poor may fall by his strong ones. He hath said in his heart, God hath forgotten: he hideth his face; he will never see it.” (Psalm 10:1-11)

“Truly God is good to Israel, even to such as are of a clean heart. But as for me, my feet were almost gone; my steps had well nigh slipped. For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. For there are no bands in their death: but their strength is firm. They are not in trouble as other men; neither are they plagued like other men. Therefore pride compasseth them about as a

chain; violence covereth them as a garment. Their eyes stand out with fatness: they have more than heart could wish. They are corrupt, and speak wickedly concerning oppression: they speak loftily. They set their mouth against the heavens, and their tongue walketh through the earth. Therefore his people return hither: and waters of a full cup are wrung out to them. And they say, How doth God know? and is there knowledge in the most High? Behold, these are the ungodly, who prosper in the world; they increase in riches." (Psalm 73:1-12)

"These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren." (Proverbs 6:16-19)

Comment: Again we see that the wicked, the ungodly, are full of pride as they sinfully and willingly reject the true God and His Word. Those filled with self-pride cause all kinds of trouble in the world, some even briefly pretending humbleness in order to trap the poor. But, Jesus says, "Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 5:3) The wicked will NOT forever thrive in their sinful, pride-filled way!

"Thou hast rebuked the proud that are cursed, which do err from thy commandments." (Psalm 119:21)

"An high look, and a proud heart, and the plowing of the wicked, is sin." (Proverbs 21:4)

"For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch." (Malachi 4:1)

Comment: Note well that the proud are sinful and wicked! God will punish the pride-filled impenitent folks in hell-fire. Indeed, "The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth." (Matthew 13:41-42) Sinful pride will not go unpunished!

"He that is of a proud heart stirreth up strife: but he that putteth his trust in the LORD shall be made fat." (Proverbs 28:25)

"Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith." (Habakkuk 2:4)

*Comment: Observe again that pride in one's self is sin— not a good quality. Humble faith in Jesus Christ as one's Savior and Lord is what every individual needs; and, such faith brings a blessing, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." (John 3:16, 36) **WE ARE ALL SINNERS WHO NEED THE SAVIOR— that's the fact we cannot ignore,** "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 6:23) *Thank and praise the Lord for His grace!**

“And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.” (Luke 18:9-14)

Comment: In the parable Jesus spoke, He makes it clear that pride will leave one in one's sins and headed for hell. Therefore, God grant that we abstain from pride, that we regularly and humbly repent of our sins, trusting in Jesus Christ as our Rescuer from never-ending ruin, for, “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12)

“Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth. Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth; a stranger, and not thine own lips.” (Proverbs 27:1-2)

*Comment: Let us heed the Holy Bible's words of warning concerning high self-esteem and boastful bragging – that is, **pride** – which manifests itself as arrogance, haughtiness, elation, being puffed-up, having self-confidence and self-conceit.*

In conclusion, let us remember to beware of becoming entangled with the sin of **pride**, which is so popular in the day and age in which we live. Rather, let us be like David the psalmist, who in honesty confessed: “I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul shall make her boast in the LORD: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad.” (Psalm 34:1-2) Let us keep in mind the example of Jesus, who is perfect man and true God, yet one Christ. During Jesus' visible sojourn on earth He was never prideful, for in total honesty He said, and He still says, “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” (Matthew 11:28-30)

My friends, Philippians 2:5-11 bids us, “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” Therefore, let us cling to Jesus Christ in humble, heart-deep faith! Let us daily and sincerely repent of all our sins, for, “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.” (1 John 1:8-10)

m.e.l.