

PRIDE

Definition: 1 An overhigh opinion of oneself; conceit; haughty behavior resulting from this arrogance.

Pride refers either to a justified or excessive belief in one's own worth, merit, or superiority.

Opposite of humility.

2 Proper respect for oneself; sense of one's own dignity and worth; self-respect.

(This is NOT the definition of Pride we are discussing today.)

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From THE SEVEN DEADLY SINS TODAY by Henry Fairlie:

Pride is the first of the Seven Deadly Sins

If all the sins are causes of solitariness, Pride is the first begetter of it.

There is always this element of withdrawal from others. One is satisfied with oneself; only oneself is necessary.

Pride is the cause of:

disobedience	→	at odds with authority, family
boasting and hypocrisy	→	makes communication impossible
scorn and arrogance	→	erects barriers against people
impatience and obstinacy	→	brings strife not cooperation
self-centeredness	→	divides people apart
a swelling of the heart, filled with self-pleasure	→	no place for others

Pride is the keystone of the arch of all the other interwoven sins. It runs through almost everything that we do.

Pride is in our:

Envy-----Persuades us that we deserve better than we have
Anger-----Adopt position of superiority from scoen and obstinacy
Avarice---Display ourselves in extravagant finery we dont need
Gluttony--Excess and opulent foods
Sloth-----Get by with a minimum of effort
Lust-----Little regard for feelings of others or the body

Pride always emphasizes the separation from others, the refusal of community, the hostility that then burns all the time inside one. It is a sin of neglect: it causes us to ignore others.

The curious thing about our self-absorption--curious only until one thinks about it--is that it seems to bring so little contentment...This discontent is always one of the punishments of Pride, the consequence of the illusions of self-sufficiency that it encourages.

The foundation of humility is truth...The besetting sin of our time is that it will not take Truth with enough seriousness, as often as not with no real seriousness at all... One is speaking of a failure to acknowledge the complexity of the Truth of things and the difficulty of attaining it. In nothing is our Pride more evident than in this.

From MERE CHRISTIANITY by C. S. Lewis:

There is once vice of which no man in the world is free; which every one in the world loathes when he sees it in someone else; and of which hardly any people, except Christians, ever imagine that they are guilty themselves...There is no fault which makes a man more unpopular, and no fault which we are more unconscious of in ourselves. And the more we have it ourselves, the more we dislike it in others. The vice I am talking of is Pride or Self-Conceit; and the virtue opposite to it, in Christian morals, is called Humility.

C.S. Lewis (con't)

Pride leads to every other vice: it is the complete anti-God state of mind.

Each person's pride is in competition with every one else's pride. It is because I wanted to be the big noise at the party that I am so annoyed at someone else being the big noise.

Pride is essentially competitive by its very nature, while the other vices are competitive only by accident. Pride gets no pleasure out of having something, only out of having more of it than the next man. People are proud of being richer, or cleverer, or better-looking than others; they have the pleasure of being above the rest. Once the element of competition has gone, pride has gone.

Power is what Pride really enjoys.

Pride has been the chief cause of misery in every nation and every family since the world ^{began.} As long as you are proud you cannot know God. A proud man is always looking down on things and people; and, of course, as long as you are looking down, you cannot see something that is above you.

Whenever we find that our religious life is making us feel that we are good--above all, that we are better than someone else--I think we may be sure that we are being acted on, not by God, but by the devil...For Pride is spiritual cancer: it eats up the very possibility of love, or contentment, or even common sense.

If anyone would like to acquire humility, I can tell him the first step. The first step is to realize that one is proud. Nothing whatever can be done before it. If you think you are not conceited, it means you are very conceited indeed.

From PURE IN HEART by Dallin H. Oaks:

(Elder Oaks discusses two divisions of condemned pride:)

One kind of pride is synonymous with self-satisfaction. The pride of self-satisfaction is self-righteous. This man creates an air-tight justification for everything he does simply because he does it.

A person who has the pride of self-satisfaction cannot repent, because he recognizes no shortcomings. This kind of pride has a self-image that has inflated from wholesome positive to excessive preoccupied. In contrast to the spiritual wholeness of the self-forgetful, this kind of pride bespeaks the spiritual extremity of the self-centered.

The second type of pride condemned in the scriptures is the pride of comparison. We conclude that we have done well in competition; we have competed with persons and concluded that we are "better" than they.

It is an attitude that commences with personal comparisons with others and leads to demeaning thoughts or oppressive actions directed at other sons and daughters of God.

"No man can compare himself with his ideals and be proud or haughty. The proud and the haughty are only they who compare themselves with more unfortunate people than they."

Pride must be a special challenge in this dispensation because the Book of Mormon, written to people of our day, contains the most intensive and repetitive teachings about the evils of Pride. It identifies pride as the cause of the spiritual and temporal downfall of the people of God.

Isaiah 5:21--Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes and prudent in their own sight.

D&C 38:39--...Beware of pride, lest ye become as the Nephites of old,

D&C 121:37--...When we undertake to cover our sins, or to gratify our pride, our vain ambition, or to exercise control or dominion or compulsion upon the souls of the children of men, behold, the heavens withdraw themselves; the Spirit of the Lord is grieved; and it is withdrawn.