

Pride

WHY IS PRIDE CONSIDERED ONE OF THE “SEVEN DEADLY SINS” WHEN OTHER THINGS SEEM SO MUCH WORSE?

EZEKIEL 28:11-19

The Bible seems to indicate that pride was the sin that resulted in Lucifer (Satan) being cast from heaven.

¹¹Then this further message came to me from the LORD: ¹²“Son of man, weep for the king of Tyre. Give him this message from the Sovereign LORD: You were the perfection of wisdom and beauty. ¹³You were in Eden, the garden of God. Your clothing was adorned with every precious stone—red carnelian, chrysolite, white moonstone, beryl, onyx, jasper, sapphire, turquoise, and emerald—all beautifully crafted for you and set in the finest gold. They were given to you on the day you were created. ¹⁴I ordained and anointed you as the mighty angelic guardian. You had access to the holy mountain of God and walked among the stones of fire.

¹⁵“You were blameless in all you did from the day you were created until the day evil was found in you. ¹⁶Your great wealth filled you with violence, and you sinned. So I banished you from the mountain of God. I expelled you, O mighty guardian, from your place among the stones of fire. ¹⁷Your heart was filled with pride because of all your beauty. You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor. So I threw you to the earth and exposed you to the curious gaze of kings. ¹⁸You defiled your sanctuaries with your many sins and your dishonest trade. So I brought fire from within you, and it consumed you. I let it burn you to ashes on the ground in the sight of all who were watching. ¹⁹All who knew you are appalled at your fate. You have come to a terrible end, and you are no more.”

PSALM 10:2-11

Pride leads to ignoring God and a life of disobedience.

- 2 Proud and wicked people viciously oppress the poor.
Let them be caught in the evil they plan for others.
- 3 For they brag about their evil desires;
they praise the greedy and curse the LORD.
- 4 These wicked people are too proud to seek God.
They seem to think that God is dead.
- 5 Yet they succeed in everything they do.
They do not see your punishment awaiting them.
They pour scorn on all their enemies.
- 6 They say to themselves, “Nothing bad will ever happen to us!
We will be free of trouble forever!”
- 7 Their mouths are full of cursing, lies, and threats.
Trouble and evil are on the tips of their tongues.
- 8 They lurk in dark alleys,
murdering the innocent who pass by.

They are always searching
for some helpless victim.
- 9 Like lions they crouch silently,
waiting to pounce on the helpless.
Like hunters they capture their victims
and drag them away in nets.
- 10 The helpless are overwhelmed and collapse;
they fall beneath the strength of the wicked.
- 11 The wicked say to themselves, “God isn’t watching!
He will never notice!”

2 TIMOTHY 3:2-5

Pride can destroy relationships faster than almost anything else because it is always taking away from others. Pride strengthens your position at the expense of others. It is selfish.

²For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred. ³They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control; they will be cruel and have no interest in what is good. ⁴They will betray their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride, and love pleasure rather than God. ⁵They will act as if they are religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly. You must stay away from people like that.

2 CHRONICLES 26:16-20

An inflated estimation of our past successes leads to prideful behavior and, ultimately, judgment.

¹⁶But when he had become powerful, he also became proud, which led to his downfall. He sinned against the LORD his God by entering the sanctuary of the LORD's Temple and personally burning incense on the altar. ¹⁷Azariah the high priest went in after him with eighty other priests of the LORD, all brave men. ¹⁸They confronted King Uzziah and said, "It is not for you, Uzziah, to burn incense to the LORD. That is the work of the priests alone, the sons of Aaron who are set apart for this work. Get out of the sanctuary, for you have sinned. The LORD God will not honor you for this!"

¹⁹Uzziah was furious and refused to set down the incense burner he was holding. But as he was standing there with the priests before the incense altar in the LORD's Temple, leprosy^o suddenly broke out on his forehead. ²⁰When Azariah and the other priests saw the leprosy, they rushed him out. And the king himself was eager to get out because the LORD had struck him.

OBADIAH 1:3

Pride finds comfort in false security.

³You are proud because you live in a rock fortress and make your home high in the mountains. "Who can ever reach us way up here?" you ask boastfully. Don't fool yourselves! ⁴Though you soar as high as eagles and build your nest among the stars, I will bring you crashing down. I, the LORD, have spoken!

1 CORINTHIANS 4:6-7

Pride can infect our spiritual lives and divide the church.

⁶Dear brothers and sisters,^o I have used Apollos and myself to illustrate what I've been saying. If you pay attention to the Scriptures,^o you won't brag about one of your leaders at the expense of another. ⁷What makes you better than anyone else? What do you have that God hasn't given you? And if all you have is from God, why boast as though you have accomplished something on your own?

ACTS 12:22-23

God hates pride and will judge it severely.

²²The people gave him a great ovation, shouting, "It is the voice of a god, not of a man!"

²³Instantly, an angel of the Lord struck Herod with a sickness, because he accepted the people's worship instead of giving the glory to God. So he was consumed with worms and died.

WHEN IS PRIDE HEALTHY AND APPROPRIATE?

ROMANS 15:17

Paul was proud not of what he had accomplished but of what God had done through him.

¹⁷So it is right for me to be enthusiastic about all Christ Jesus has done through me in my service to God. ¹⁸I dare not boast of anything else.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:11-13

Like Paul, if we take pride in anything, we ought to take pride in the integrity and honesty of our ministry and life.

¹¹It is because we know this solemn fear of the Lord that we work so hard to persuade others. God knows we are sincere, and I hope you know this, too. ¹²Are we trying to pat ourselves on the back again? No, we are giving you a reason to be proud of us, so you can answer those who brag about having a spectacular ministry rather than having a sincere heart before God. ¹³If it seems that we are crazy, it is to bring glory to God. And if we are in our right minds, it is for your benefit.

Promise from God: Proverbs 16:18

¹⁸Pride goes before destruction, and haughtiness before a fall.

¹⁹It is better to live humbly with the poor than to share plunder with the proud.

²⁰Those who listen to instruction will prosper; those who trust the LORD will be happy.