Respectable Sins

Session Seven

Pride

***HOOK***

To what extent were you thankful to God – for unpleasant as well as great circumstances?

What challenges did you face in cultivating an attitude of thankfulness?

***BOOK***

What is pride?

In this lesson, we are going to talk four expressions of pride and how it is evidenced in our lives.

Four Expression of Pride

1. Pride of Moral self-righteousness
   1. What is moral self righteousness?
   2. What does scripture say about sinful pride (James 4:6; 1 Peter 5:5) and the dangers that even believing teachers face (Romans 2:1-3, 21)?
   3. “The Sin of moralsuperiority and self righteousness is so easy to fall into today,” Jerry writes, “when society as a whole is openly committing or condoning such fragrant sins as immorality, easy divorce, a homosexual lifestyle, abortion…Because we don’t commit those sins, we tend to feel morally superior and look with a certain amount of disdain or contempt on those who do”
      1. Why do you suppose it is that we can so easily drift into the pride of moral superiority and then develop a spirit of contempt toward those who practice those sins?
      2. To what kind of people did Jesus tell the parable about the self righteous Pharisee? Why is this significant to us? (Luke 18:9)
   4. How do we guard against such sin?
2. Pride in Correct Doctrine
   1. What is pride in correct doctrine?
   2. Believers who care deeply about a particular belief system are susceptible to pride of correct doctrine – thinking that people who hold other beliefs are theologically inferior. What did Paul says to prideful believers who concluded that eating food sacrificed to idols fell within the bounds of Christian liberty? (1 Corinthians 8:1)
3. Pride of Achievement
   1. Where does our ability to achieve or succeed come from? (Genesis 45:4-8; 1 Samuel 2:7; Daniel 2:21; Haggai 1:5-6)
   2. Read 1 Corinthians 4:7. How relevant are Paul’s words to us today? Why?
   3. Jerry writes, “Occasionally, one of the letters might say something like this: “Our son, John, graduated summa cum laude from [some prestigious university such as Harvard, Yale, Stanford, or MIT].” Is there anything wrong with making such statements? What can become problematic with such statements?
   4. Is it wrong to desire recognition for a job completed or done well?
   5. Read Colossians 3:23. What does this verse say about the attitude and focus of our work?
   6. How do we guard against a sinful desire for personal recognition?
   7. Why are we so prone to desiring man’s approval?
   8. How does God feel about a proud heart? (See Psalm 101:5; Proverbs 16:5; 21:4) How does He feel about our failure to acknowledge His gracious blessing?
   9. Why do you suppose that proud is such an abomination to God?
4. Pride of an Independent Spirit
   1. What does Hebrews 13:17 say about submitting to authority?
   2. What do Proverbs 2:1; 3:1; 4:1; 5:1 and 7:1 emphasize (in the context of a father-son relationship), and why are the principles of these verses relevant to the topic of prideful independence verses a teachable spirit?
   3. What would be some examples of solid biblical counsel to which we should give an attentive ear?
   4. What would be some examples of counsel that God has granted some freedom in our individual choices?

***LOOK***

1. Do you agree with the author that “there are degrees of selfishness as well as degrees of subtlety in expressing it? Why or why not?
2. Have five group members each look up one of the following verses. After each verse is read aloud, discuss together the passage’s insight on how God feels about sinful pride.
   1. Psalm 31:23
   2. Jeremiah 50:31
   3. Luke 1:51
   4. Proverbs 8:13
   5. Proverbs 15:25

What are some specific manifestations of pride in our lives?

Look up the following passages in groups. Fill in the blank for each manifestation of pride and briefly describe why or how pride is exhibited.

Manifestations of Pride

Group One

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ against or passing \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on God (Numbers 14:1-4, 9,11; Romans 9:20)
2. A lack of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (2 Chronicles 32:25)
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Proverbs 28:25; Matthew 20:1-16)
4. Seeing yourself as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ than others (Luke 7:36-50)
5. Having an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ view of your importance, gifts and abilities (Acts12:21-23)
6. Being focused on the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of your gifts and abilities (1 Cor. 12:14-25)
7. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew 23:24-28)
8. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ too much (Proverbs 10:19)
9. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ too much about \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Proverbs 27:2; Galatians 6:3)
10. Seeking \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (1 Corinthians 1:10-13; Ephesians 5:21)

Group Two

1. Being \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with what others \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Galatians 1:10)
2. Being devastated or angered by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Proverbs 13:1)
3. Being \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Proverbs 19:20; John 9:13-34)
4. Being \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ , talking down to them(Proverbs 2:18, 24)
5. A lack of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Galatians 5:13, Ephesians 2:10)
6. A lack of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew 5:7, 18:23-35)
7. Being \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ -\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Genesis 3:12-13; Proverbs 12:1)
8. A lack of admitting when you are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Proverbs 10:17)
9. A lack of asking \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew 5:23-24)

Group Three

1. A lack of biblical \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Luke 18:10-14)
2. Resisting \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or being \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (1 Peter 2:13-17)
3. Voicing \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ when not asked (Philippians 2:1-4)
4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ your own \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and shortcomings (Matthew 7:3-5)
5. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ others’ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and shortcomings (Matthew 7:3-5; Luke 18:9-14)
6. Being \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or irritable with others (Ephesians 4:31-32)
7. Being \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or envious (1 Corinthians 13:4)
8. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ others (Matthew 7:12; Philippians 2:3-4)
9. Being \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by covering up sins, faults, and mistakes (Proverbs11:3; 28:13)
10. Using \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ -getting tactics (1 Peter 3:3,4)
11. Not having close \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Proverbs 18:1-2; Hebrews 10:24-25)
12. Etc
13. If we allow sinful pride to take root in our lives, what consequences should we expect? (1 Corinthians 5:6) Can you think of a time when you allowed this to happen? What did you experience as a result? How do you think other people felt about you?
14. Have three participants read aloud Romans 12:1-3, Philippians 2:3; and 1 Corinthians 13:4. After each verse, indentify how God wants us to counter the sin of pride.

Manifestations of Humility

1. Recognizing and trusting God’s character (Psalm 119:66)
2. Seeing yourself as having no right to question or judge an Almighty and Perfect God (Psalm 145:17; Romans 9:19-23)
3. Focusing on Christ (Philippians 1:21; Hebrews 12:1-2)
4. Biblical praying and a great deal of it (1 Thessalonians 5:17; 1 Timothy 2:1-2)
5. Being overwhelmed with God’s undeserved grace and goodness (Psalm 116:12-19)
6. Thankfulness and gratitude in general towards others (1 Thess. 5:18)
7. Being gentle and patient (Colossians 3:12-14)
8. Seeing yourself as no better than others (Romans 12:16; Ephesians 3:8)
9. Having an accurate view of your gifts and abilities (Romans 12:3)
10. Being a good listener (James 1:19; Philippians 2:3-4)
11. Talking about others only if it is good or for their good (Proverbs 11:13)
12. Being gladly submissive and obedient to those in authority (Rom. 12:1-2, 13:1-2)
13. Preferring others over yourself (Romans 12:10)
14. Being thankful for criticism or reproof (Proverbs 9:8, 27:5-6)
15. Having a teachable spirit (Proverbs 9:9)
16. Seeking always to build up others (Ephesians 4:29)
17. Serving (Galatians 5:13)
18. A quickness in admitting when you are wrong (Proverbs 29:23)
19. A quickness in granting and asking for forgiveness (Colossians 3:12-14)
20. Repenting of sin as a way of life (Colossians 3:1-14; 1 Timothy 4:7-9)
21. Minimizing others’ sins or shortcomings in comparison to one’s own (Matthew 7:3-4)
22. Being genuinely glad for others (Romans 12:15)
23. Being honest and open about who you are and the areas in which you need growth (Philippians 3:12-14; Galatians 6:2)
24. Possessing close relationships (Acts 20:31-38)
25. Etc.

***TOOK***

In which particular area(s) of your life do sinful expressions of pride and selfishness tend to surface? (Home, work, school, recreation, thoughts)

Your conversations can reveal clues regarding pride and selfishness. As you converse with others, do you truly listen and empathize, or do you tend to shift the conversation to your own stories, interests, or achievements? Write down an example or two, followed by you thoughts on how God probably wanted you to behave.

What do you calendar and checkbook reveal about selfishness in your life?

Compare the sins of pride and selfishness to the fruit of the Spirit (See Galatians 5:22-23). What changes might you need to make, with the Holy Spirits help?

After you have identified areas of sinful pride and selfishness that may have taken root in your life, confess them to God in prayer. Ask Him to make you less mindful of yourself and more mindful of the needs of others.