

## Dangers of Pride continued from page 1.

Sometimes men mistakenly feel that they alone are responsible for their successes. King Nebuchadnezzar learned the hard way that God is the one who has the power to exalt a man or humble him (Dan. 4:29-37). Once again, God deserves the praise.

### Race or Heritage

Pride of race is bound to cause conflicts. This fact is proven by a glance at the newspaper headlines over the past decades.

In Jesus' day, the Jews were a proud race, thinking that because they were Abraham's children, they would be saved. John the Baptist said, "think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to *our* father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham" (Mat. 3:9).

We are all saved by our faith and obedience unto God, not by what race we are. Each individual soul is precious to God, regardless of the pigment of the skin (Mat. 16:26).

### Wisdom and Judgment

"Seest thou a man wise in his own conceit? *there is* more hope of a fool than of him" (Pro. 26:12). How often do we think more highly of ourselves than we ought?

It was pride in his own judgment that almost kept Naaman from being cleansed (2 Kin. 5:9-14). Many will be lost because of this type of pride. Some individuals believe that they have been saved for years, and even though the Scriptures are presented to them, they refuse to believe that their own judgment could have been wrong all that time.

Many brethren will refuse to admit they have made mistakes because they believe it would reflect on their judgment. Pride can prohibit repentance and endanger one's eternal destiny.

We must not think our judgment is infallible or that our wisdom exceeds all others. "Woe unto *them that are* wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight" (Isa. 5:21).

### Social Standing

Haman's pride in his position nearly caused the extinction of the Jewish race. How dare an inferior Jew refuse to bow down to him! (Est. 3:1-2, 5). His pride eventually caused him to be hanged on the gallows he had prepared for Mordecai (Est. 7:10).

It is social pride that compels us to keep up with the Joneses, sometimes creating unnecessary financial burdens. Social pride may even influence how we treat others (Jam. 2:1-7).

As Christians we should guard against these pitfalls following the example of Jesus (John 13:3-15).

### Spirituality

Jesus talked about those who were proud of their spirituality. In the sixth chapter of Matthew, Jesus begins by saying that we should not practice our righteousness in order to be noticed by men.

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# BELVEDERE BEACON

"Ye are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14)

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## Dangers of Pride

It is the devil's business to entice Christians into sinning. He especially aims at drawing us away from God. He has many devices at his disposal.

Most mature Christians would never consider committing sins of a carnal nature. Satan could not seduce most Christians into committing adultery or getting drunk.

So he suggests sins of a more subtle nature, one of which is pride. Pride is not as obvious as the sin of adultery or drunkenness. And the person whose pride causes him to sin is usually the last one to recognize that he has acted out of pride.

A person that commits adultery may be bothered and even tortured by guilt, but the person of pride may not even realize his problem.

Pride can mean a number of things. There is nothing wrong with self-respect or even being pleased with doing something well. But when we approach boastfulness, conceit, and arrogance, we have wrongfully overstepped our bounds.

There are at least six areas in which pride may affect our thinking and cause us to stumble.

### Possessions

The rich farmer in Luke 12:16-21 gave credit only to himself. No mention is made of God, from whom he received his wealth.

God blesses both the just and the unjust (Mat. 5:45). An atheist may prosper as much as or more than a Christian. The only difference is that the atheist refuses to give God the glory.

It is by God's grace that we prosper (Jam. 1:17). Therefore, we have nothing about which to boast; God deserves the praise.

### Accomplishments

We read that after Herod made an oration, "the people gave a shout, *saying, It is* the voice of a god, and not of a man. And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory" (Acts 12:21-23).

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### SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

#### SUNDAY:

Bible Classes for all ages 10.00 am.

Morning Worship 11.00 am.

Evening Worship 6.00 p.m.

#### WEDNESDAY:

Bible Classes for all ages 7.00 p.m.

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Today, Mother's Day is celebrated in this country. In England, it is celebrated at a different time, varying each year during March or early April. However, as Christians, we should honor mothers always. Under the Law of Moses, the children of Israel were commanded:

*"Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee"* (Exodus 20:12). In the New Testament, we find reference to this command when Paul commands Christians: *"Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth"* (Ephesians 6:1-3). We are also shown how Jesus loved and honored His mother, even when being put to death on the cross on Calvary: *"Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home"* (John 19:25-27).

The following poem by Edgar A. Guest, born in Birmingham, England, not far from my home, but raised in Detroit, Michigan, speaks well of mothers:

Gentle hands that never weary toiling in love's vineyard sweet,  
Eyes that seem forever cheery when our eyes they chance to meet,  
Tender, patient, brave, devoted, this is always mother's way,  
Could her worth in gold be quoted as you think of her to-day?

There shall never be another quite so tender, quite so kind  
As the patient little mother; nowhere on this earth you'll find  
Her affection duplicated; none so proud if you are fine.  
Could her worth be overstated? Not by any words of mine.

Death stood near the hour she bore us, agony was hers to know,  
Yet she bravely faced it for us, smiling in her time of woe;  
Down the years how oft we've tried her, often selfish, heedless, blind,  
Yet with love alone to guide her she was never once unkind.

Vain are all our tributes to her if in words alone they dwell.  
We must live the praises due her; there's no other way to tell  
Gentle mother that we love her. Would you say, as you recall  
All the patient service of her, you've been worthy of it all?

May we always honor our mothers not only on this day but everyday. To all of our mothers and grandmothers, "Happy Mother's Day."

*Ken Chumbley*

**NEWS AND NOTES**

Keep in your prayers the following: Helen Culpepper, Pam Gossett, Lavonne McClish, Linda Chumbley, and Rachel Fitzpatrick's aunt (Eula Baker) who has cancer, Maomi Aaron' sister who is having health problems, Myrtle Grimsley, Lanny Niver together with his daughter, and Tim Smith.

Lanny Niver is to have procedures this week to help with his health problems.

Ron Wilson's mother is still has problems following her recent fall. Keep her in your prayers. Ron Wilson has got into "moving mode." First he is helping Kimberly and Jennifer move things in Athens, GA this weekend. Then he is going Thursday to Houston to get Cynthia moved up in readiness for her to start back ay M.I.T. this summer. Keep them in your prayers that they may be safe in their travels.

Linda Chumbley received a report from her doctor Friday. She will not need more chemotherapy at this time for her Leukemia but the doctor will continue to monitor her blood count each month.

Michael Farmer's mother is scheduled to have cataract surgery May 13.

We will have a cookout on June 27 – Hamburgers, hot dogs and trimmings. Also on July 11 we will have a low country boil. Mark these dates on your calendar and plan to participate.

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He then mentions three ways in which hypocrites acted religious to be seen of men; in their giving (6:2-4), in their praying (6:5-8), and in their fasting (6:16-18).

Also there is the excellent illustration in which Jesus contrasts the prayers of a Pharisee and a publican (Luke 18:9-14).

Perhaps it was pride in being religious that caused Ananias and Sapphira to lie, saying that they had given all of what was sold to God (Acts 5:1-10).

We must avoid thinking that we alone are responsible for our own success, our measure of wealth, our accomplishments, our degree of wisdom, etc. God deserves the glory. He is truly great. What is man by comparison?

Let us all be "poor in spirit," and also strive to have the mind of Christ: who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross (Phi. 2:6-8—NAS).

*Gary W. Summers  
Winter Park, FL*