

## I Corinthians 18 The Prideful Look notes

### I Corinthians 4:6-13

V. 6 – We shouldn't think beyond what the Bible says about leaders, preachers and teachers: they are described as Construction workers; Farmers; Slaves; Sewards/Waiters who pass out the things of God.

VV. 6-13 -- This passage deals with the primary theme of the pride and arrogance set against the backdrop of apostles' humility.

- Dealing with the Corinthians pride and arrogance is one of the overarching themes of this entire letter.
- Paul uses a particular word here that literally means to be **puffed up** it refers to what a frog does when it inflates its throat and belly.
- That word is sprinkled throughout this entire letter: **I Corinthians 4:18; 4:19; 5:2; 5:6; 8:1; 13:4**
- Pride and arrogance are destructive to church and any relationship because it effectively says, "I'm for me. I'm not for us."

Our world has changed so much in the past century—America is not America anymore it seems to me. One of the main reasons is we've made pride and arrogance a virtue.

Pride is one the ugliest things on the planet.

- God hates all sins, but He more than doubles down on His feelings toward pride: **Prov. 6:16-17; Prov. 8:13; Isa. 13:11; Prov. 16:18; Prov. 29:23; James 4:6;**
- God just goes so out of His way to tell us how bad pride is and how much He despises it.

### **1. There is nothing more natural to fallen humanity than pride.**

- Pride is the quintessential sin of our fallenness: "It's all about me", "I'm smart", "I'm important"; self-centeredness, self-promotion, self fulfillment
- Pride is the passion of the fallen heart.
- We took a look at pride when we talked about the self-esteem this past summer – the self-esteem movement is just simply pride and arrogance repackaged and sold under a different label.

Pride is now considered a virtue; we've reversed everything; this is Pride Month; and what are we prideful about? Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer.

- Someone might say, "Yeah, these things are an abomination to God" so is pride of any kind. **Prov. 16:5**
- We are so in love with how wonderful we are that we take pictures of ourselves.
- We even had a "Selfie Day" -- National Selfie Day is celebrated annually on June 21 to encourage self-expression through selfies.
- An estimated 93 million take a moment to take a picture of themselves every day.
- Can you imagine Jesus doing that?** holding up the basket of 5 loaves and two fish; in front of Lazarus' tomb; walking on the water; in front of the water with all the dead pigs floating in the background...?

A selfie just gives expression to how desperately fallen we are:  
Headed to Hell for eternity, turning our backs on our Creator, loving what He hates and hating what He loves—so we stop for pic of our favorite person.

--We are so devoted to it! It's our real religion; it's what we worship above everything else.

--So, no shock that the believers at Corinth were struggling with this issue.

--Pride is Self-worship, and Self-worship is what our fallenness is really about: **Genesis 3:5** "be like God" worthy of worship!

--Every other sin rises out of the soil of pride.

## **2. Pride seeks to dethrone God: Psalm 10:4**

--There is no room for faith in God since we believe in ourselves so much!

--Thus, to come to God and be saved requires us to humble ourselves, repent of lostness and sin and cry out for forgiveness—have you done that?

--**Luke 18:10-12** – It's almost as if he's got a selfie-stick in his hand!

--**18:13-14** – If you cannot humble yourself like this man, you cannot be saved!

--If you can't humble yourself, you can't follow Jesus **Luke 9:23**

--In order to put God on the throne of your life, you have to dethrone pride.

**3. Pride creates contentions and divisions** – the Corinthian believers were arguing among themselves – of course they were because the whole conversation revolved around their pride.

--**Prov. 13:10** – So many unnecessary disputes and quarrels that would be easily prevented if it weren't for pride.

--Find yourself in arguments and contentions a lot? You now know why.

Since pride dethrones God in my life and puts me in His place, then I cannot be argued with, I cannot be wrong, or corrected; and I cannot stand you since you are trying impose the same things on me.

## **4. Pride creates ranks and pecking orders** – "I am of Paul"

--Can you imagine! "Paul healed more than your guy did", "Peter knew Jesus longer"; "Apollos is a far better speaker than those other two."

According to the National Geographic website, the Pufferfish can inflate into a ball shape to evade predators. Also known as blowfish, these clumsy swimmers fill their elastic stomachs with huge amounts of water (and sometimes air) and blow themselves up to several times their normal size ... But these blow-up fish aren't just cute. Most pufferfish contain a toxic substance that makes them foul tasting and potentially deadly to other fish. The toxin is deadly to humans—**1,200 times more deadly than cyanide**. There is **enough poison in one pufferfish to kill 30 adult humans**, and there is no known antidote.

Like Pufferfish, human beings can blow themselves up with pride and arrogance to make themselves look bigger than they are.

--And this pride will be toxic to a marriage, a church, or a friendship.

--Like a pufferfish, nobody can stomach us!

**"Pride is your greatest enemy, humility is your greatest friend."**