

## I Corinthians 19 The Proudful Look II notes

During the Great Awakening, when the Spirit of God revived much of our nation's early faith, Jonathan Edwards was presiding over a massive prayer meeting. 800 men prayed with him. Into that meeting a woman sent a message asking the men to pray for her husband. The note described a man who had become unloving, prideful, and difficult. Edwards read the message in private and then, thinking that perhaps the man described was present, made a bold request. Edwards read the note to the 800 men. Then he asked if the man who had been described would raise his hand, so that the whole assembly could pray for him. 300 men raised their hands!

### I Corinthians 4:6-7

- Pride is one the ugliest things on the planet. God hates it: Prov. 8:13
- We ended last time with a pretty bold statement: that people cannot be forgiven unless they come to God in humility--like this: Lk. 18:13 instead of like this: Lk. 18:11-12 "You owe me something God" as opposed to "You owe me nothing but Hell."
- We believe that God accepts everyone, and that is true and false at the same time.
- God accepts anyone with any sin as long as they are humble, but people will not come to Him if they are proud: James 4:6; Prov. 16:5;
- Ps. 51:17 "a broken and contrite spirit", but what if you don't have that?
- The Scriptures tell us God blesses, honors, lifts up, exalts, uses, instructs the humble; **but not anybody else.**
- Ex. 3:5; Josh. 5:15 – even 1/8" shoe leather is too high!

**Pride seeks to dethrone God: Psalm 10:4**

**Pride creates contentions and divisions – Proverbs 13:10**

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

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

**1. God actually does have a ranking system. Jesus shows us what it is: Matthew 18:3**

- Children? Aren't children selfish little sinners? Of course, they are; the apple doesn't fall far from the tree!
- It's not the attitude of the child we are after, but the *status of child* that you have to adopt.

Children held the lowest status of that culture in the first century

- Children then and now have no credentials, no accomplishments, they bring no money or experience or ability or achievements to the table they have nothing offer.
- When we think of a valuable person, we think along these lines: what they have to offer, what they bring to the table, their skills, their expertise—children, in that sense, are not valuable.

Do you hear what He's telling us? By accepting the status of a child, we are acknowledging that we bring no value, no status, we have nothing to offer—We don't bring anything

--It's not that we aren't valuable—Jesus paid for us with His life! But we have no intrinsic value.

## **2. Our children are valuable because we set a value on them.**

--When we bring a child into the world they don't show up with a million dollars, amazing technology, make things easier and more efficient in our homes.

--Instead, children are a detriment on all moneys, skills, efficiencies of the home; nevertheless, from the womb we love them and value them.

--But how much do they contribute to the household? couple thousand in income apiece from their professional jobs? expertise in handling the books?, fixing the car?, household maintenance?, the demand for their special skill set that makes them worth millions?

--Kids are a black hole that suck up your money, time, energy, affection, life—they suck it all in and give very little back.

--But that's ok because they are our kids and we love them!

**It is on the same basis that we are welcomed and accepted by God, nothing more.**

## **3. People think that they are going to work out some kind of deal with God one day as if they have something to offer Him.**

--God doesn't make deals with people for two reasons:

One, He has no needs; He never has and He never will.

Two, we have nothing to offer anyway—we are the same as a child; we have nothing that He needs.

--We are black hole of needs—unlike God.

--We're a black hole of needs and God has an infinite supply—it is a perfect relationship.

## **4. It is at the point of our neediness where we are derailed by pride.**

God has a massive problem with those who think they aren't needy: **Revelation 3:16-17**

--God is happy to be the supplier of our needs, but it will come at the price of our admission that *in the scheme of things we are children*.

--**"What do you have that you did not receive?"** Whatever you have, you received —you didn't have it beforehand/you didn't bring with you.

We have nothing to offer, nothing to contribute, we bring nothing to the table—Its ok, because God doesn't need anything anyway.

--He doesn't need us, just like **we don't need our children**

--God wants us, just like, and even more than, we want our children.

--We want our children, but it's not because they supply anything, not for their cash, mad skills, or superior intellect, but because they are ours.

We find fulfillment in meeting their infinite needs--**In that respect, we are just like God.**

## **5. But if your attitude is: "I'm no child" "I want to be accepted by my contribution" "I'm here on my merits"**

**"God resists the proud, but gives grace to humble."**

--A proud attitude is begging God to humble it!

God hates pride because it keeps Him from being the father that He wants to be to us, and it keeps us from being His children.

--God hates pride because it is the sin that keeps Him from dealing with all other sins and shortcomings and needs.

--D. L. Moody: "God sends no one away empty except those who are full of themselves."

--Unless you become like a little child—not in attitude or action but in status, you will be sent away.