

Set Free from Pride
(James 4:6-10)
Sermon Series: Set Free to Live Free

Introduction: This is not a popular message. It's not an easy message. This is the kind of message that would make some people mad! Some may not think this is for them, because they have so much pride! "Pride? – well I don't have to worry about THAT one." D.L. Moody said: "*I have had more trouble with myself than with any other man.*"

We all have trouble with pride! The prayer and hope that we have for this message today is that we would ALL humble ourselves before the Lord that He may lift us up! - That we would believe this Word from God ... and live it!

I. We Need to See the Danger of Pride

A. God Hates Pride. (Prov. 6:16-19, Is. 2:11-12, Prov. 16:5)

B. God "Digs in" Against Pride. (James 4:6) He fights against the proud!

C. Pride Keeps You from Salvation. (Matthew 18:2-4) Pride cannot enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.

D. Pride Keeps You from Spiritual Growth. (John 5:19; Rom. 8:29) How can you be conformed to the image of Christ unless you're willing to humble yourself?

E. Pride Keeps You from Spiritual Victory and Freedom. Notice these oxymoronic statements (seeming contradictions) of Scripture: Matt. 23:12; James 4:10; and Matt. 16:25.
- Example of the contrast between Saul & David (1 Samuel 15 and 2 Samuel 12).

II. We Need to Identify Pride.

A. Its Definition - Saying to God, "*I don't need you.*"

Jamieson-Faussett-Brown Commentary: "*one who shows himself above his fellows, and so lifts himself against God.*"

B. Its Depth - It goes to the very core of our being! (Jeremiah 17:9)

C. Its Width - C.S. Lewis called pride "the great sin." It is universal.

D. Its Height - It exalts itself against God! (Isaiah 14:12-14)

Pride is what Satan used to tempt Eve in the garden, Gen. 3:4-5.

E. **Its Pervasiveness** – Pride manifests itself in myriads of ways.

III. **We Need to Be Set Free from Pride**

A. **See Yourself as God Sees You**

1. **Apart from Him** (Ephesians 2:1; Romans 3:10-11; John 15:5; Rom. 7:18)

Watchman Nee: *“In our most holy times we are riddled with pride. And when you see that, there are only 2 things: laugh or cry, and we may as well laugh!”*

2. **In Him** (Ephesians 2:8-9)

B. **Ask God to Show You the Pride in Your Heart.**

C.S. Lewis – *“The first step is to realize that one is proud ...*

If you think that you’re not conceited, it means you are very conceited indeed.”

C. **Repent and Believe the Truth** ... about who you are apart from Christ and in Christ! We’re back to John 8:31-32, *“You will know the truth and the truth will set you free!”*

- The point here is to repent from who you are (apart from Christ), not only from what you’ve done. Turn from your sinfulness and your sin and believe who you are in Christ!
- Walk in repentance! Every day!

D. **Die to Self/Humble Yourself** (Luke 9:23, *“If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.”*) Luke adds **daily**.

- To be set free from pride **you have to die!** And you have to do it **daily!**
- James 4:10

E. **Submit/Surrender and Depend on Him** This is the pattern of Jesus, Himself – the Son of God! Ask God for the filling of the Holy Spirit – that He might empower you and work in and through you to His honor and glory!

Conclusion: Charles Spurgeon said: *“Pride may be set down as “the sin” of human nature.”* Leonard Ravenhill said: *“Jesus did not come into the world to make bad men good. He came into the world to make dead men live!”*

We need to understand that until we see that our sinful pride leaves us helpless, hopeless, and dead, we will never be able to have the life, victory, and freedom that He has for us! We must see that our pride keeps us from seeing our need for Christ! We must humble ourselves and repent! We must die to self and surrender to Christ! We must submit to Him and receive from Him the life and liberty that only He can give! We must walk daily in repentance, submission, and dependence on Him, and He will respond with forgiveness, grace, and His enabling power to live in freedom from sinful pride!