

#10

**Pride is the most overlooked
sin in the church.
God puts it in the same class
as murder.**

by Evangelist Raymond

King Hezekiah's self-dependence and pride

2 Kgs 18:3-7

King Hezekiah started out good by restoring true worship of God and destroying all idols. But later he **became self-sufficient**. (about 700 BC)

2 Kgs 18:11-16

Hezekiah's **self-dependence** – He gave the king of Assyria tribute (payment) not to invade Jerusalem, but to no avail. *He paid him 300 talents of silver and 30 talents of gold (62 million dollars in today's money).

Isa 22:1-11

Hezekiah looks to his weapons of war as his last resort and only means of defense against the Assyrian army. He digs a water tunnel to supply the city for the invasion, but does not give God honor for supplying the water spring – **self-sufficient**.

2 Chron 32: 24-26

In those days Hezekiah became sick onto death. **He did not give God glory. His heart was lifted up in pride**, therefore the wrath of God was on him.

2 Kgs 20:1-11

The prophet Isaiah said, Put your house in order. You will die. **Hezekiah humbled himself, prayed, and cried unto God**. God answered very quickly, I will give you 15 more years to live. I will heal you, and the sign for your healing will be that I will turn the sun shadow 10 degrees backward (20 minutes). The earth stopped its rotation and went backward. What a miracle God did!

2 Kgs 19:33-36

To deliver Jerusalem from invasion, God sent one angel to kill 185,000 Assyrians in one night!

2 Chron 7:14

The Lord said, "If I send pestilence among my people, or send locusts to devour the land, then if my people shall turn from their sin, humble themselves and pray, I will hear from heaven and will heal their land.

***See pamphlet #22 pg. 10 - The price of 1 talent of gold.**

The following is an historical account of how God dealt with a very proudful Gentile king. (600 BC)

Dan 4:4-37

I, Nebuchadnezzar, was at rest in my house, and flourishing in my palace. I dreamt one night, having a vision of a very large tree. I was shown an angel coming down from heaven that cried, Cut down the tree but leave the stump. Let his heart become like a beast's heart and let seven years pass by upon him. This is the decree of the holy angel to the intent that the living may know that God rules in the kingdoms of men and gives it to whomsoever he wills. I did not know the meaning of my dream and so asked Daniel, a Jewish captive, to interpret it for me. He told me that I was that big tree and that men would drive me from my palace and **I would eat grass with the cattle of the field for seven years till I learned to humble myself and give God glory.** Daniel admonished me along these lines, but I didn't take his counsel to heart. One year later, as I was walking in my palace, **I boasted, Is this not the great Babylon I have built by my might and power and for my glory?** While I yet spake, I was driven from my palace and began eating grass. I was wet from the dew of heaven, my hair grew as long as eagle feathers, and my nails as bird's claws. At the end of seven years, **I, Nebuchadnezzar, humbled myself and lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me. I praised and gave honor to God who lives forever and whose dominion on earth and throughout the universe is an everlasting dominion.** All the people of the earth are as nothing. He doeth according to his own will in the army of heaven (his millions of angels). **Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, give honor and praise to the King of heaven. His judgments are truth, and those that walk in pride, he is able to bring low.**

Isaiah 40:15-18

"Behold the nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance; behold, he taketh up the isles as a very small thing . . . All nations before him are as nothing; and they are counted to him less than nothing, and vanity. To whom then will ye liken God? or what likeness will ye compare unto Him?"

King Agrippa's pride

Acts 12:1-3 & 21-23

The grandson of Herod the Great, King Agrippa, killed James the brother of John with the sword, and wanted to kill Peter also. Some 10 years after Christ's crucifixion, King Agrippa sat on his throne and made a speech. The people said, **This is the voice of a god. The angel of God smote him, because he gave no glory to God.** He was eaten by worms and died.

2 Chron 16:7-14

King Asa trusted in God wholly for much of his reign in Judah. Toward the end of his reign, he became self-sufficient, and looked to others for help in troubrous times. For this, he was rebuked by the prophet. God also pronounced wars upon him for the rest of his reign. This angered him, and in his pride he sinned greatly. He died of an incurable foot disease. (1000 BC)

God's law of blessing for obedience and cursing and sickness for sin.

Deut 28:1-2 & 15-45

I have set before you **blessing if you obey Me, and cursing and sickness for sinning against me.**

Deut 28:60-65

Even sicknesses not written in the law, I will bring upon you, because you did not obey Me. I rejoiced to do you good and to bless you, but because of sin, I will drive you off your land and destroy you. This was fulfilled 600 years before Christ, and for 2000 years Israel had no homeland! No one seems to see what was wrong with God's chosen people.

James 4:6-9

Humble yourself. God resists the proud.

1 Pet 5:5-6

Humble yourself under God's mighty hand.

Matt 18:3-4

Whosoever humbles himself like a little child, the same is the greatest in God's kingdom.

Matt 23:12

A humble man will be exalted by God.

God's Severity and Anger, He Will Punish All Sinners

Gen 3:17-24

God punished His first son, Adam, for only one sin. The ground was cursed, Adam was driven from the garden, and he lost eternal life.

In the 40 Years of Wandering in the Wilderness

Ps 78:56-62

Prov 6:16-19

Hose 9:11-17

Israel sinned against God most of the time. **The Lord got angry with His chosen people over 25 times, killing over 40,000 of them as recorded in the bible.** Many thousands more, who murmured against God, were killed by snakebites. **Many people count on God's love to overlook their sin against Him.** **Yes, His love is that he will forgive them if they repent,** but God hates sinners, and will punish them. **Let us believe bible records** showing how God, in the 40 years, became angry with His chosen people Israel over 25 times, and killed over 40,000 sinners. **Where are God's judgments? Vengeance is mine, I will repay (punish), saith the Lord. So, let us learn well that God will punish sinners, as the following scriptures will prove.**

Num 16:30-35

The Lord opened the earth, and it swallowed up three rebel families, and fire from the Lord killed another 250 rebel leaders.

Num 16: 41-49

The next day, the congregation blamed Moses that the 250 rebels were killed. The Lord said, I will kill all of them in a moment. The plague started killing **14,700** until Moses prayed, and the plague stopped. This is the fourth time God wanted to kill all Israel!

Num 21:5-6

The people spoke against God and Moses, You brought us out of Egypt to die in this wilderness, for there is no bread nor water, and we hate this manna. **And the Lord sent fiery serpents to bite the people, and many died.**

Num 25:1-5 & 9

After 38 years of wandering, Israel came to Shittim in Moab, opposite Jericho. There, she joined herself to false gods and committed fornication. **The Lord was very angry and 24,000 died in the plague.**

How did these things happen to God's chosen people? God warned the nation of Israel in Deuteronomy 28, that if they broke His laws, God would drive them from the good land which He gave them, a land that flowed with milk and honey!

Rom 10:1-3

Israel has a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge, for they, being ignorant of God's righteousness (salvation through Jesus Christ), established their own **self-righteousness**, refusing to submit themselves unto the righteousness of God, being religious and saying, We are God's chosen people, while looking down on others.

John 8:33-44

The Jews were proud to have God as their Father and told this to Jesus, but Jesus said to them, You are slaves to sin. You don't keep the law of Moses, but make and teach doctrines and commandments made by rabbis. You worship me in vain. God is not your Father. The father of all sinners is the devil. But I can make you free from sin and from your religious traditions and false teachings, which are not written in the bible.

God's Love and Severity to Man

Rom 11:19-23

The nation of Israel, here called, "the branches", was broken off twice in their history for continued disobedience to God. The first time by Nebuchadnezzar, and the second time by Rome, some 40 years after they crucified Christ. For nearly 2000 years, God's chosen people, Israel, had no homeland. No one seems to get the idea that something is wrong with that picture! **The obedient experience God's goodness, but the disobedient will know His severity. Take heed, Church, and fear. Don't be high minded. Stay obedient to God.** For if He did not spare His chosen people, but cut them off twice as a nation, He will do the same to you, if you disobey.

Warning – Sin will bring sickness

Ps 38:1-10 David's sin of adultery and murder brought venereal disease upon him, **warning us that sin will bring sickness.**

Ps 51:1-17 **David is broken and contrite, showing true sorrow for having sinned.** He humbles himself and asks God to forgive him and to save his soul again. God heals his disease.

Isa 53:5 David understood that by Christ's stripes he was healed. He looked forward in faith to the cross to be healed even as we look back to the cross for our healing. This requires true faith, believing from the heart the word of God and His promises.

Ps 4:3 God hears the righteous when he prays.

Ps 91:15 What is the reality of Psalm 91? I will trust in God, I will call on God and He will answer me. No evil shall come to me. With long life God will satisfy me, because I trust in my God.

Sin and unbelief – the cause of sickness

Jn 5:5-14 Jesus healed the man that was sick 38 years **and warned him to sin no more or else a worse thing would come upon him!**

1 Cor 11:26-34 The Corinthian church failed to judge themselves, so God judged them. Some became sick, and others died prematurely for not having faith in Christ to be healed.

1 Cor 5:1-13 It is common knowledge that there is fornication in your church, a man having sex with his father's wife, **and you are puffed up in pride**, when you should be mourning.

Your glorying is not good, because this sin will infect the whole church like leaven. Don't keep company with a fornicator, covetous man, idolater, or drunkard. No, don't even eat with such, but put away from you all who do such things in the church. **But Christendom is glorying and proud saying, God loves us when we sin every day.**

James 5:14-16

Confess your faults (sins) to one another to be healed.

1 Pet 2:24

The blood of Jesus is for our forgiveness, and our physical healing comes by his stripes and beatings.

1 Pet 3:12

God hears the righteous, **but is against evil doers.**

1 Jn 3:21-22

When you are free from sin, then you have confidence to ask God anything, and he will give it.

New Testament sin of pride and self-sufficiency

Rom 1:28-32

Seventeen sins are listed. Among them is **murder, pride, and arrogant boasters**. They which commit these sins are worthy of death (hell-fire).

Rom 2:17-29

Jews boasted of their superior knowledge of the law. They were self-confident in their privileged position as teachers of the law. They looked down on Gentiles, and sinned worse than they did!

1 Cor. 4:6-8

The Corinthian church was puffed up in pride over ministers and their giftings. Paul told them, Now you are reigning as kings having no more need of us. You have become self-sufficient.

1 Pet 5:5-6

God resists the proud. Humble yourself and obey God's commandments.

James 4:6-10

God resists the proud. Submit to or obey God's laws. Humble yourself by freely admitting your sin. God will lift you up (forgive you).

God's wrath on all who know the truth of the bible, but don't obey the truth.

Rom 1:21-22 & 28

Because when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were they thankful for God's blessing.
Their heart was darkened and deceived, saying to themselves, We are wise, independent, and proud.
But they became fools. They did not like to keep the knowledge of God, so God gave them up to a reprobate mind. They rejected God's word and laws, committing 20 sins:

1. unrighteousness – all kinds of sin
2. fornication – sex outside of marriage
3. wickedness – depraved, criminal acts
4. covetousness – lust for gain
5. maliciousness – a vicious disposition
6. envy – wanting everything the rich have
7. murder – killing unborn babies; marring the happiness of others
8. debate – argumentative
9. deceit – not truthful, conniving
10. whisperers – seek to ruin men's reputations
11. backbiters – false accusers
12. haters of God – mockers of God and His bible
13. despiteful – hateful
14. **proud – glory in self or nation**
15. **boasters – arrogant braggarts**
16. inventors of evil things – originators of wicked, immoral things
17. disobedient to parents – indifferent to rule and order
18. covenant breakers – not dependable to keep one's word
19. no natural affection – sexual perversions in and out of marriage
20. implacable – unyielding, obstinate, unforgiving spirit

Rom 2:4

Do you despise God's goodness to be longsuffering with you? He is waiting for you to repent.

How to know if you have pride?

1. Are you defensive when corrected by boss, leader, etc?

Heb 12:5-8

Every son I receive I correct. It takes humility to be corrected.

2 Tim 3:16-17

All scripture is for instruction and correction.

Rev 3:19

Everyone I love I correct - the 5 churches.

2. Are you compelled to justify yourself and to make excuses when corrected?

Rom 10:1-3

Jews were self righteous and full of pride. God cut them off.

Luke 18:9-14

2 men went to the temple. Only one humbled himself.

Rev 3:17

Laodician church boasted, We are rich, and have need of nothing.

3. Do you look down on others?

Philp 2:3-4

Esteem others better than self. This takes humility.

Rom 14:4

Why do you look down upon thy brother ?

Rom 12:3

Don't think too highly of yourself (pride).

4. Do you have a need to speak and have all the answers?

Matt 13:14-15

Can't listen to men or God - pride and rebellion.

5. Why do you have trouble being taught? Can it be pride and rebellion?

Matt 5:3

Jesus said, Blessed are the meek or teachable.

1 Cor 1:27-31

He that glorieth, let him glory in God.

Key manifestations of pride

1. Intolerance
2. Frustration
3. Impatience
4. Irritation
5. Excuse making
6. Criticalness

Is America still the home of the free when the bank owns your house and car? (2008)

America the proud! Never giving God honor and glory for having blessed America. **Haven't you read in the bible that God resists the proud? Pride is a great sin, make no mistake! God hates pride.**

Prov. 6:16-19

6 things God hates: pride, a lying tongue, killing the innocent . . .

Prov. 13:10

By pride comes contention and fighting.

Prov. 15:25

God will destroy the house of the proud.

America prints money that says on it, In God We Trust. Do we trust God? Or do we trust our big houses, cars, bonds and stocks. Now, many Americans have lost their homes and possessions.

Rev 3:14-22

Has the American church failed to be God's true representative on earth? **We say we are rich and in need of nothing, yet we are destitute of godliness, answered prayers, healings and miracles.** Like the Laodicean Church, Jesus said, You are not rich, but you are wretched and blind. His call to repent remains. His threat to remove the sinning church still applies for us today.

Rev 2:1-5

Who is the God of America? Is it not all the sports with their athletes, who are worshipped as little gods? Has not money become the god of America?

It is time for America to repent as a people, as families, **to repent of pride, love of money and idol worship**, and get on our knees to ask God's forgiveness of our sins!

God resists the proud.

James 4:6-10

Humble yourself under the mighty hand of God. **Weep and mourn for your sin and God will lift you up again! America must repent of her pride, self-reliance, and independence**, for she has not looked to God for help and protection.

Rom 2:4

Do you despise God's longsuffering and goodness towards you? He is waiting for you to repent.

New Testament Grace - Gives Man a Lifetime to Repent

Gal 6:7

God is not mocked. Whatever a man sows, he will reap. How so? The murderer will be put in prison, the adulterer will have a broken marriage, the fornicator will get a venereal disease, etc., etc.

1 Jn 3:4-10

Most people say that they are sinners! The bible says that sinners are children of the devil. God has given us the New Testament, that warns us over 50 times that all sinners will experience God's wrath in an eternal hell-fire.

Most people believe that sinners will go to heaven. If this is true, then hell will be almost empty!

Matt 7:13-23

Jesus said the opposite, that the road to hell is wide, and most will go there, and that the gate to heaven is narrow, and only a few will be saved.

Who will you believe, Jesus or false teachers?

God's Final Judgment in the New Testament Comes After a Man Dies.

God has given man a free will. He can sin his entire life and God will not strike him dead. That is the grace of God. So man comes to the conclusion that he can sin and escape God's wrath and judgment.

2 Peter 3:9

What man does not understand is that God is longsuffering, waiting, even if it takes a man's lifetime, for him to repent of sin. That is the grace of God. Man does not consider that God's judgment will come after he dies. See Rev 20:12-14 (sinners will be resurrected and judged).

Rom 6:23

The wages of sin is death – eternal death and hell-fire.

Rom 2:4

Do you despise God's goodness to be longsuffering with you? He is waiting for you to repent.