

PROUD OR HUMBLE?

Luke 18:9-14

Introduction: Churches of today could stand a lot of improvement in a lot of areas and the most common mistake made is in identifying what is needed to get going again.

One of the greatest hinderences is PRIDE while one of the greatest needs is HUMILITY.

"Pride" is a high opinion of one's own worth, including conceit. "Humility" is a low opinion of one's worth, unimportant, not very great.

Pride and humility are also personal characteristics. We have met both kinds of people and probably each of us are one or the other. How does a Church overcome pride and gain humility?

I. WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

1. What does the Old Testament say about Pride?

- *Psalm 138:6; Proverbs 6:16;8:13; 16:5, 18*

2. What does the New Testament say about Pride?

- *James 4:6; 1 Peter 5:5*

3. What does the Old Testament say about Humility?

- *2 Chronicles 7:14; Isaiah 57:15*

4. What does the New Testament say about Humility?

- *Matthew 18:1-4; Luke 18:4; James 4:6; 1 Peter 5:5*

II. HOW DOES GOD RESPOND TO PRIDE AND HUMILITY?

1. **Concerning Pride:** Loves the person, but hates his/her pride. It is a dreadful thing to be resisted by God.

2. **Concerning Humility:** God esteems it, gives grace, but resists the proud. It is up to us whether to choose pride or humility.

III. WHAT IS PRIDE AND HUMILITY?

1. Pride refuses to admit it's need.

- The Pharisee admitted to no need (Jesus story).
- How much like the Pharisee are we? We really have no need? Others do, but not me?
- The root of pride is refusal to admit there is a need.
- Refusal to admit there is a need is the SIN of pride.

2. Humility humbly lays it's needs before God.

- The publican recognized his need and admitted it. (Jesus story).
- When those who are lost, unsaved, acknowledge their need, then salvation comes.
- Christians are in great need to recognize being humble.

- 3. Pride refuses to admit that it cannot meet one's needs.**
 - The core of pride is to refuse to admit there is a need.
 - The Pharisee listed the things he did. (Jesus' story).
 - We do the same today, "I will solve it, I will handle it, I will straighten it out, Leave it to me."
 - The Church is no exception for it does not need God, it will just add new staff, new programs, new building, different organizations, etc...
- 4. Humility constantly admits it can't meet all the needs.**
 - Humility falls on its face before God as did the publican.
 - The Church needs to believe that ONLY God can meet its needs, go to God with those needs and then God will meet those needs.
- 5. Pride is more concerned with what people think than what God thinks.**
 - Most people are afraid to humble themselves because of what others might think.
 - The Pharisee saw others around him, so he described his goodness so they could hear.
- 6. Humility is more concerned with what God thinks.**
 - The Publican didn't care what others thought, he cried out to God.
 - As long as one is more concerned about what others think than what God thinks, that is PRIDE.
- 7. Pride always sees the faults of others.**
 - The Pharisee was glad that he wasn't like the others.
 - Pride always sees faults, is critical, fault finding in others, but not in one's own life.
- 8. Humility sees and confesses it's own sins.**
 - The Publican cried out for mercy.
 - Paul claimed to be the worst sinner.
 - Humility seeks out it's own sins, not the sins of others.
- 9. Pride always claims to be right.**
 - Pride will go to any extent to justify and defend itself.
- 10. Humility readily admits when it is wrong.**

CONCLUSION:

1. How can God help those who don't need help, who won't admit that God can meet their needs, are more concerned about what others think than what God thinks, always seeing others' faults and they are never wrong. God resists them because of their PRIDE.
2. Come before God in humility, admitting, confessing, being concerned about what God thinks, confessing your own sins, admitting to be in the wrong and God will pour out His grace and blessings.
3. So, where do you stand? Proud or Humble?