

"PROUD OR HUMBLE?"

Lk. 18:9-14; Ja. 4:6-7; Isa. 57:15

INTRO: One of the most common mistakes churches and christians make is in identifying what it would take to really get things going...to really see the hand of the Lord work and growth numerically as well as spiritually.

One of the greatest hindrances of the church today is PRIDE!....One of the greatest needs of the church today is HUMILITY!

I. WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

1. What does the O.T. say about PRIDE?
 - a. Ps. 138:6 - God knows the proud afar off.
 - b. Prov. 6:16 - A proud look is an abomination to God Himself.
 - c. Prov. 8:13 - God hates pride and arrogance
 - d. Prov. 16:5 - Everyone proud in the heart is an abomination to God.
 - e. Prov. 16:18 - Pride leads to a fall.
2. What does the N.T. say about PRIDE?
 - a. Ja. 4:6
 - b. 1 Pet. 5:5
3. What does the O.T. say about HUMILITY?
 - a. 2 Chron. 7:14 - God puts a premium on humility.
 - b. Isa. 57:15
4. What does the N.T. say about HUMILITY?
 - a. Matt. 18:1-4 - Humble one's self like a little child.
 - b. Lk. 18:4 - Pharisee and the Publican
 - c. Ja. 4:6 - God gives grace to the humble.
 - d. 1 Pet. 5:5 - God gives grace to the humble

II. HOW DOES GOD RESPOND TO PRIDE AND HUMILITY?

1. Concerning PRIDE:
 - a. God loves the person but hates that person's pride.
 - (1) God opens His arms to the person
 - (2) God resists the proud person and doesn't bless.
 - (3) It is a dreadful thing to be RESISTED by almighty God!
2. Concerning HUMILITY:
 - a. God esteems humility (become like a little child...)
 - b. God gives grace (undeserved love, mercy, doing for that person that which he/she could never do for him/herself, meeting man at the point of his need.)
 - c. God RESISTS the PROUD but gives grace to the humble....live a proud life and be resisted by God..live a humble life and be blessed.

III. WHAT IS PRIDE AND HUMILITY?

(We usually define pride as someone struck on himself, bragging a lot, etc.)

1. Pride Refuses to Admit its Need!
 - a. Lk. 18:11-12 - This man never admitted that he had a need.
 - b. How many here today refuse to admit that you have a need before God?

Most worshippers feel that the message is for someone else!
Most Christians are not willing to admit before God a personal Need

- c. THE VERY ROOT OF PRIDE rests in the fact that a person will not admit his need before God!
 - the pharisee was thanking God he wasn't like everyone else..
 - at no time did he ever say he had a need.
 - d. Are YOU willing to admit your need before God? ALL OF US are desperately needy before God...
 - e. If WE REFUSE to admit we have a need, we are guilty of SIN.
 - I don't need anything - I don't need Jesus - I don't need the christian fellowship, etc....WE ARE PROUD..and God resists
 - d. Proud christians say, my church needs a revival - they need to be revived - if they'll get right we'll have revival...they, they....IF YOU DON'T SEE YOUR OWN NEEDS AS A CHRISTIAN, YOU ARE GUILTY OF THE SIN OF PRIDE...refusing to admit your need.
2. Humility Humbly Lays its Needs Out Before God.
- a. Lk. 18:13 - this man recognized his need.
 - he was not afraid to admit his need..
 - b. When a lost person becomes humble before God, that person is going to be saved!
 - c. Humility in a Christian is when that christian realizes HE IS THE ONE WITH THE GREATEST NEED...I am the one..I am the one...
 - d. PRIDE REFUSES TO ADMIT ITS NEEDS BEFORE GOD!
3. Pride Refuses to Admit that it Cannot Meet its Own Needs!
(THE CORE OF PRIDE!)
- a. Not only won't admit its needs, BUT CANNOT MEET ITS OWN NEEDS!
 - the attitude of self-sufficiency...
 - the pharisee listed all the things he DID - fast, tithe..HE WAS MEETING ALL HIS NEEDS....he thought.
 - b. It never occurred to the pharisee that he had needs ONLY GOD could meet!
 - we say the same thing! I can straighten out my own life...
 - I don't need any outside help...THAT'S PRIDE! I will solve my own problems..I will fight my own battles...I will accomplish my own goals...ALL WITHOUT THE INTERVENTION OF GOD!!
 - c. The church is no different than the pharisee....
 - what we need are new programs...more staff...different organization...new plans...new buildings...WE CAN DO IT..WE JUST NEED THIS AND THAT.....
 - God is waiting for His church to say, God we have a need and we need your help....
4. Humility Constantly Admits it Can't Meet Its Own Needs!
- a. Humility falls on its face before God...Pride looks to itself but humility looks to God to meet its needs..
 - b. When God's people begin to believe that ONLY GOD can meet their needs, they will WATCH God meet their needs!
5. Pride is More Concerned With What Man Thinks Than What God Thinks!
- a. Many people would really humble themselves before God but don't because of what others might think!...afraid others would see that THEY REALLY DO HAVE A NEED...
 - b. The pharisee knew others were around, therefore he went on to describe his good qualities..concerned about what others thought him more than about what God thought...

6. Humility is More Concerned With What God Thinks than Others!
 - a. The publican wasn't concerned about what people thought...he cried out for God to be merciful to him..a sinner..!
 - b. When God's people admit their needs and admit they can't meet their needs and come to the place that they don't care about what others think, what God thinks is what is important...then THAT WILL BE HUMILITY!

-as long as we are concerned more about what others think than what God thinks we are guilty of the sin of PRIDE..
7. Pride Always Sees the Faults of Others!
 - a. The pharisee was so glad he wasn't like others...
 - b. A proud person ALWAYS sees the faults in others..extremly critical, finding fault with everybody and everything....
-seeing faults of others but not their own sins...
 - c. Pride always sees the faults of others but not it' own ...
8. Humility sees its Own Sins and Confesses and Forsakes Them.
 - a. The publican cried out for mercy...
 - b. Paul claimed to be the worst sinner of all..
 - c. Humility sees its own sins and its own needs rather than those of others.
9. Pride Always Claims to be Right!
 - a. Pride goes to every extent to justify itself and to defend itself!
 - b. Anybody who is always right..never occurring that he/she might be wrong is a PROUD person...
10. Humility readily admits when it is wrong...

CONCLUSION:

1. Concerning God and the Proud...
 - a. How can God help those who won't admit their needs?
 - b. How can God help those who won't admit that only God can meet their needs?
 - c. How can God really help those who are more concerned about what others think than what God thinks?
 - d. How can God help those who are always seeing the faults of others
 - e. How can God help those who are never wrong?

ALL THIS IS PRIDE! and God resists the Proud!

2. Concerning God and the Humble...
 - a. Let someone live in humility, admitting his needs, confessing that only God can meet his needs...more concerned about what God thinks than what people think....dealing with his own sins rather than sins of others...readily admitting when he is wrong..

LET A PERSON LIVE LIKE THIS and God will pour out his grace on that humble person....or church...

3. What will you do about your pride....? the Bible says.."Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God that he might exalt you in due time..." "If my people, which are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray..."
4. God gives grace to the humble..and resists the proud...