

The Pride of Life

October 8, 2017

The Pride of Life expresses itself in:

- **Self-Promotion** - *“I want to be noticed, seen, heard, admired, superior and promoted.”*
- **Self-Sufficiency** - *“I don’t need any help. I can make things happen for me, my way, by my own power.”*
- **Self-Rule** - *“I will determine for myself what is right or wrong for me.”*

Self-Promotion - *“I want to be noticed, seen, heard, admired, superior and promoted.”*

Self-Esteem:

- Merriam-Webster Dictionary - *a confidence and satisfaction in oneself*
- Oxford Dictionary - *confidence in one's own worth and abilities*
- YourDictionary.com - *belief and pride in yourself*

The message of self-esteem became popular in the 1950's and 1960's with the rise of psychiatry and authors such as Norman Vincent Peale.

Norman Vincent Peale:

- *pastored the Marble Collegiate Church (founded 1628) in New York City for 52 years from 1932 to 1984*
- *author of “The Power of Positive Thinking,” selling 5 million copies*
- *president of the American Foundation of Religion and Psychiatry*
- *officiated the first marriage of Donald to Ivana Trump in 1977*

Many Christians and ministries have perverted and mingled God’s call to contrition and repentance into a religious appeal for self-esteem and self-promotion with slogans such as:

- *“Believe in yourself! Have faith in your abilities! Without a humble but reasonable confidence in your own powers you cannot be successful or happy.”— Norman Vincent Peale*
- *“There is a winner in you. You were created to be successful, to accomplish your goals, to leave your mark on this generation. You have greatness in you. The key is to get it out.” – Joel Osteen*
- *“Don’t just accept whatever comes your way in life. You were born to win; you were born for greatness; you were created to be a champion in life.” – Joel Osteen*

The eternal danger of the self-esteem message is that it undermines and negates our dependence on God.

Jeremiah 17:5 ESV

5 Thus says the LORD: "Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the LORD.

Matthew 5:3-4 ESV

3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Romans 7:18-20 ESV

18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out.

19 For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.

20 Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

Job 42:5-6 ESV

5 I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you;

6 therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes."

Isaiah 57:15 ESV

15 For thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the **LOWLY** (*shaphal* - low, humble), and to revive the heart of the **CONTRITE** (*dakka* - very much crushed, broken very small, broken in spirit).

Psalms 51:17 ESV

17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

"You are not mature if you have a high esteem of yourself. He who boasts in himself is but a babe in Christ, if indeed he be in Christ at all. Young Christians may think much of themselves. Growing Christians think themselves nothing. Mature Christians know that they are less than nothing. The more holy we are, the more we mourn our infirmities, and the humbler is our estimate of ourselves." - Charles Spurgeon

"Heaven has no place for the erroneous belief that Christ died because we are worth it. Christ's death in our place had nothing to do with our worth but with the depths of our sin, the demands made by God's justice, and His eternal glory." -- Dave Hunt

"Hypocrisy can plunge the mind of a man into a dark abyss, when he believes his own self-flattery instead of God's verdict." - John Calvin

One of the darkest demonstrations of human depravity and perversion is when we glory in ourselves instead of in God, when we rejoice in our own goodness instead of in God's, all in the name of self-esteem and "believing in yourself."

Isaiah 14:12-15 ESV

12 "How you are fallen from heaven, O Day Star, son of Dawn! How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low!

13 **YOU SAID IN YOUR HEART, 'I WILL ASCEND TO HEAVEN; ABOVE THE STARS OF GOD I WILL SET MY THRONE ON HIGH; I WILL SIT ON THE MOUNT OF ASSEMBLY IN THE FAR REACHES OF THE NORTH;**

14 **I WILL ASCEND ABOVE THE HEIGHTS OF THE CLOUDS; I WILL MAKE MYSELF LIKE THE MOST HIGH.'**

15 **BUT YOU ARE BROUGHT DOWN TO SHEOL, TO THE FAR REACHES OF THE PIT.**

Luke 18:18-19 ESV

18 And a ruler asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

19 And Jesus said to him, "**WHY DO YOU CALL ME GOOD? NO ONE IS GOOD EXCEPT GOD ALONE.**"

Romans 1:21-32 ESV

21 For although they knew God, **THEY DID NOT HONOR HIM AS GOD OR GIVE THANKS TO HIM, BUT THEY BECAME FUTILE IN THEIR THINKING, AND THEIR FOOLISH HEARTS WERE DARKENED.**

22 **CLAIMING TO BE WISE, THEY BECAME FOOLS,**

23 **AND EXCHANGED THE GLORY OF THE IMMORTAL GOD FOR IMAGES** resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

24 Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves,

25 because **THEY EXCHANGED THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD FOR A LIE AND WORSHIPED AND SERVED THE CREATURE RATHER THAN THE CREATOR,** who is blessed forever! Amen.

26 For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature;

27 and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.

28 And since **THEY DID NOT SEE FIT TO ACKNOWLEDGE GOD, GOD GAVE THEM UP TO A DEBASED MIND TO DO WHAT OUGHT NOT TO BE DONE.**

29 They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips,

30 slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents,

31 foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless.

32 Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.

The worst sin in homosexuality is not the perversion of the sexual act, but the self-worship in saying, "Not only will I not do what God tells me to do, but I will not be what He created me to be." For man, it is the ultimate rebellion.

Self-Sufficiency - "I don't need any help. I can make things happen for me, my way, by my own power."

*"I used to think that I could not go on, And life was nothing but an awful song
But now I know the meaning of true love, I'm leaning on the everlasting arms*

*If I can see it, then I can do it
If I just believe it, there's nothing to it*

*I believe I can fly, I believe I can touch the sky
I think about it every night and day, Spread my wings and fly away
I believe I can soar, I see me running through that open door
I believe I can fly, I believe I can fly, I believe I can fly."*

-- Written by R. Kelly (Robert Sylvester Kelly), 1996

"In March 2011, Kelly was named the #1 R&B artist of the last 25 years by Billboard. In his career Kelly has amassed 35 top 10 hits and 11 #1 hits on the R&B/Hip-Hop Songs chart."

**"Sin is believing the lie that you are
self-created, self-dependent and self-sustained."**

-- Augustine

Proverbs 3:5-7 ESV

5 TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND DO NOT LEAN ON YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING.

6 IN ALL YOUR WAYS ACKNOWLEDGE HIM, and he will make straight your paths.

7 BE NOT WISE IN YOUR OWN EYES; fear the LORD, and TURN AWAY FROM EVIL.

John 15:4-6 ESV

4 ABIDE IN ME, AND I IN YOU. AS THE BRANCH CANNOT BEAR FRUIT BY ITSELF, UNLESS IT ABIDES IN THE VINE, NEITHER CAN YOU, UNLESS YOU ABIDE IN ME.

5 I AM THE VINE; YOU ARE THE BRANCHES. WHOEVER ABIDES IN ME AND I IN HIM, HE IT IS THAT BEARS MUCH FRUIT, FOR APART FROM ME YOU CAN DO NOTHING.

6 IF ANYONE DOES NOT ABIDE IN ME HE IS THROWN AWAY LIKE A BRANCH AND WITHERS; AND THE BRANCHES ARE GATHERED, THROWN INTO THE FIRE, AND BURNED.

Self-Rule - "I will determine for myself what is right or wrong for me."

Post-Modern Philosophy - Post-Modern Theology

- Truth is subjective, not objective.
- Truth is defined by experience and feelings instead of God's Word.
- Situational Ethics (*truth depends on the circumstances*) and Moral Relativism (*there is no absolute right or wrong*) should guide us instead of absolute moral standards.

Judges 17:6 ESV

6 In those days there was no king in Israel. EVERYONE DID WHAT WAS RIGHT IN HIS OWN EYES.

Psalms 119:4-6 ESV

4 YOU HAVE COMMANDED YOUR PRECEPTS TO BE KEPT DILIGENTLY.

5 OH THAT MY WAYS MAY BE STEADFAST IN KEEPING YOUR STATUTES!

6 THEN I SHALL NOT BE PUT TO SHAME, HAVING MY EYES FIXED ON ALL YOUR COMMANDMENTS.

Romans 12:1 ESV

1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, **TO PRESENT YOUR BODIES AS A LIVING SACRIFICE, HOLY AND ACCEPTABLE TO GOD, WHICH IS YOUR SPIRITUAL WORSHIP.**

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 ESV

19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? **YOU ARE NOT YOUR OWN,**
20 **FOR YOU WERE BOUGHT WITH A PRICE. SO GLORIFY GOD IN YOUR BODY.**

John 5:19 ESV

19 So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, **THE SON CAN DO NOTHING OF HIS OWN ACCORD, BUT ONLY WHAT HE SEES THE FATHER DOING.** For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise.

Galatians 5:25 ESV

25 If we live by the Spirit, **LET US ALSO KEEP IN STEP WITH THE SPIRIT.**