

# The Most Dangerous Sin

**James 4:6 — “God opposes the proud  
but gives grace to the humble.”**

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# What is Pride? Secular Definition

- ▶ **Secondary emotion characterized by a sense of satisfaction with one's identity, performance, or accomplishments.**
- ▶ **Feeling of satisfaction derived from one's own or another's choices and actions, or one's belonging to a group of people**
- ▶ **Can accompany national identity (patriotism), regional identity, or other affiliations**



# What is Pride? Secular Definition

- ▶ It may also refer to foolhardiness, or a corrupt, irrational sense of one's personal value, status, or accomplishments, and in this sense, pride can be used synonymously with hubris or vanity. In this sense it has classical theological interpretation as one of the seven deadly sins.

# The Term “Seven Deadly Sins” is not Biblical

**Romans 6:23 – “For the wages of sin is death,  
but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ  
Jesus our Lord”**



# What do the “Seven Deadly Sins” refer to?

## 1. Pride

**“Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.” (Proverbs 16:18)**

## 2. Greed

**“For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.” (1 Timothy 6:10)**



# What do the “Seven Deadly Sins” refer to?

## 3. Lust

**“But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.” (Matthew 5:28)**

## 4. Envy

**“For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.” (James 3:16)**



# What do the “Seven Deadly Sins” refer to?

## 5. Gluttony

“Do not join those who drink too much wine or gorge themselves on meat.” (Proverbs 23:20)

## 6. Wrath

“In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry” (Ephesians 4:26)

## 7. Sloth

“As a door turns on its hinges, so a sluggard turns on his bed.” (Proverbs 26:14)

# God Detests Pride – Luke 18: 9-14

**<sup>9</sup>To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable:**

**<sup>10</sup>“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. <sup>11</sup>The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. <sup>12</sup>I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’**



# God Detests Pride – Luke 18: 9-14 cont.

**<sup>13</sup>“But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’**

**<sup>14</sup>“I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”**

# God Detests Pride - Proverbs 6: 16-19, NKJV

These six things the Lord hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him: <sup>17</sup>A proud look, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood, <sup>18</sup>A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that are swift in running to evil, <sup>19</sup>A false witness who speaks lies, And one who sows discord among brethren.



## **Pride puts us in God's Place - Isaiah 14:12-15 (KJV)**

**<sup>12</sup> How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! <sup>13</sup> For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: <sup>14</sup> I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. <sup>15</sup> Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.**

# **Pride put us in God's place discounting his wisdom - Proverbs 3:5-7**

- <sup>5</sup> Trust in the Lord with all your heart  
and lean not on your own understanding;**
- <sup>6</sup> in all your ways submit to him,  
and he will make your paths straight.**
- <sup>7</sup> Do not be wise in your own eyes;  
fear the Lord and shun evil.**





**Pride divides us & separates us from God**

**Proverbs 29:23 (NKJV) - “A man’s pride will bring him low, but the humble in spirit will retain honor.”**

**James 4:6 (NKJV) - “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”**

# What is the Antidote to Pride - Humility

- ▶ There is unity through humility

**Philippians 2:3-4 (NKJV) - <sup>3</sup>Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself” <sup>4</sup>Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.”**



# What is the Antidote to Pride - Humility

- ▶ Prayer, Confession and acknowledging our dependence on God fosters humility

**1 John 1:9 (NKJV) – <sup>9</sup>“If we confess our sins,  
He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins  
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness”**

# What is the Antidote to Pride - Humility

- ▶ Service and Purpose also help foster humility

**Matthew 6:33 (NKJV) - <sup>33</sup>“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”**

- ▶ Practicing gratitude fosters humility



# What is the Antidote to Pride - Humility

**Philippians 2: 8-11 (NKJV) - <sup>8</sup>“And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. <sup>9</sup>Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, <sup>10</sup>that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the**

# The Most Dangerous Sin - Reflection

- ▶ Have we trusted in ourselves too much?
- ▶ Have we Looked down on others
- ▶ Have we been too judgmental?
- ▶ Have we Bragged too much?
- ▶ Have we thought too highly of ourselves?
- ▶ Have we Refused to admit our own need for help?

**“Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.” – Jesus, Matthew 23:12**





# Questions?

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