

# PRIDE & RIGHTEOUSNESS

WHAT DOES PRIDE DO?

(Pro 16:18-19) Pride *goeth* before **destruction**, and an haughty spirit before a **fall**. Better *it is to be* of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the **spoil** with the proud.

(Psa 73:6) Therefore pride **compasseth them about as a chain**; violence covereth them *as* a garment.

(Pro 11:2) *When* pride cometh, then cometh **shame**: but with the lowly *is* wisdom.

(Dan 5:20) But when his heart was lifted up, and his mind hardened in pride, he was deposed from his kingly throne, and they took his glory from him:

(Eze 16:49-52) Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. (50) And they were haughty, and committed abomination before me: therefore I took them away as I saw *good*. (51) Neither hath Samaria committed half of thy sins; but thou hast multiplied thine abominations more than they, and hast justified thy sisters in all thine abominations which thou hast done. (52) Thou also, which hast judged thy sisters, bear thine own shame for thy sins that thou hast committed more abominable than they: they are more righteous than thou: yea, be thou **confounded** also, and bear thy shame, in that thou hast justified thy sisters.

(Jer 49:16) Thy terribleness hath **deceived** thee, *and* the pride of thine heart, O thou that dwellest in the clefts of the rock, that holdest the height of the hill: though thou shouldest make thy nest as high as the eagle, I will bring thee down from thence, saith the LORD.

(Oba 1:3) The pride of thine heart hath **deceived** thee, thou that dwellest in the clefts of the rock, whose habitation *is* high; that saith in his heart, Who shall bring me down to the ground? (4) Though thou exalt *thyself* as the eagle, and though thou set thy nest among the stars, thence will I bring thee down, saith the LORD.

So, what are the effects of pride?

- Destruction
- Falling
- Shame
- Hardened Minds
- A state of being confounded
- Being deceived
- Being brought down

- Being compassed like a chain
- Having less hope than a fool
  - (Pro 26:12) Seest thou a man wise in his own conceit? *there is more hope of a fool than of him.*

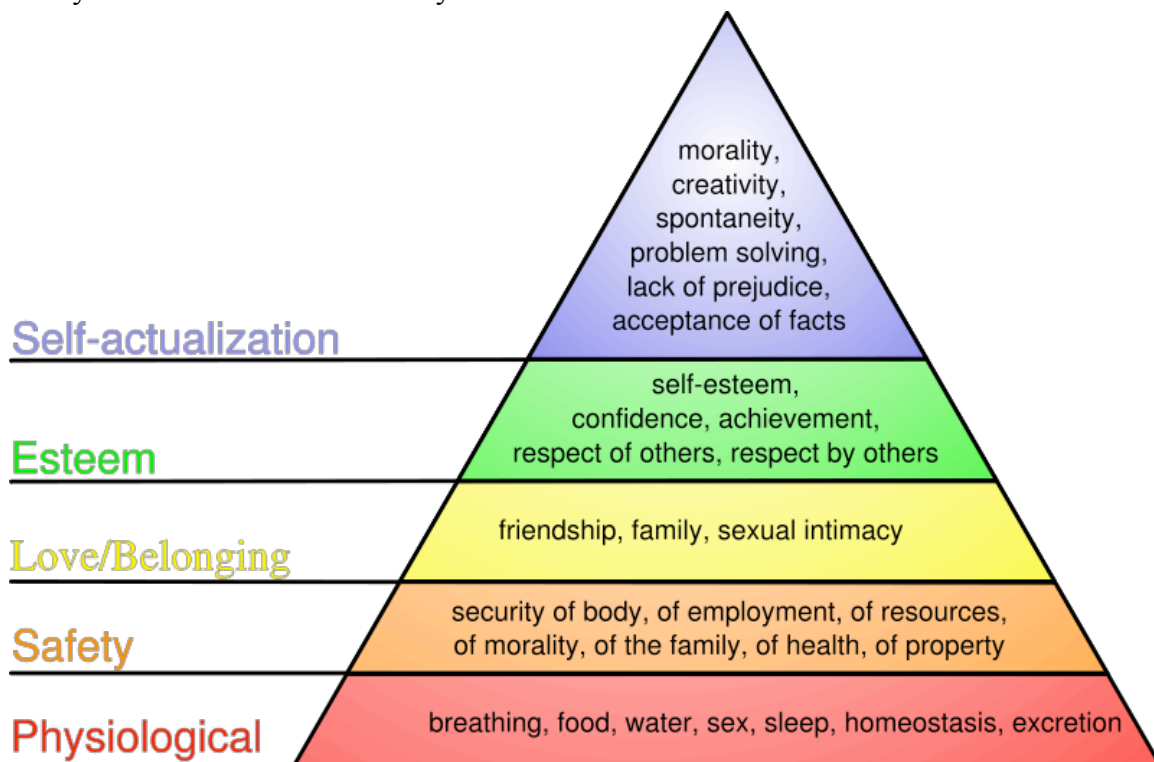
## WHAT IS PRIDE?

Definition:

Websters-

an unduly high opinion of oneself;  
 haughtiness, arrogance;  
 dignity, self-respect, and self confidence;  
 to value one's self; to gratify self-esteem;  
 satisfaction in something done, owned.”

Today's Idea- Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs



### Ego (Self esteem) Needs

means having a healthy pride in one's self. The need for self-respect, and respect from others shows up at this level.

Most human beings need to feel not just loved but needed By their community. We need to feel that we can contribute something worthwhile. For some this need for esteem will be satisfied through great achievement, as a teacher, administrator, or scientist. Others may find these needs satisfied by being a patron of the arts or serving on a school board. Still others may choose to help in noble causes such as saving the planet's ecology, helping orphaned children, or going on missionary trips.

### **Self Actualization (Fulfillment) Needs**

includes purpose, personal growth and realization of one's potentials. This is the point where people start to become fully functional, acting purely on their own volition and having a healthy personality.

Achieved when one can embody the highest potential that s/he is capable of reaching. Once all the other needs are taken care of, there remains a yearning to explore and to actualize our individual talents and gifts, to be expressive, creative, dynamic selves with the freedom to master our fate or perhaps to experience that overwhelming and mystical sense of being in perfect harmony and at one with the universe

### Self-Esteem-

Words spoken by great figures in the Bible-

”such a dead dog as I”

”why callest thou me good?”

”I am slow of speech”

“least of the apostles”

### Self-Actualization

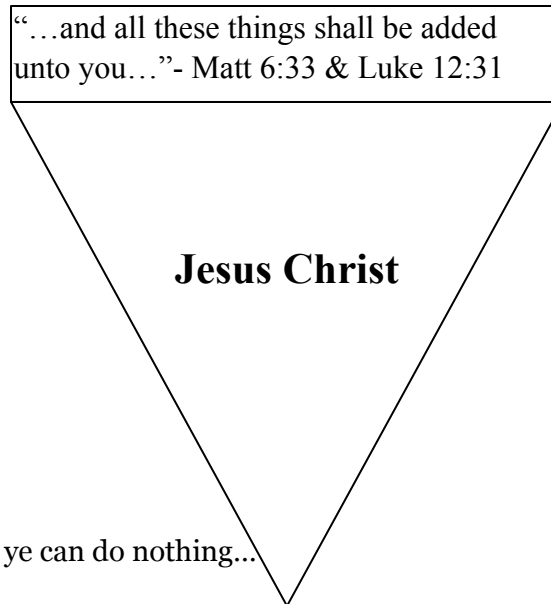
“Count not thyself to have apprehended”

“There is none good, no not one”

### Christian’s Hierarchy of Needs

Christ taught something very different than Maslow. While Maslow focuses on an egocentric (or self-serving) mindset and way of life, Christ taught a differing humble and meek way of thinking. Instead of being worried about how we think of ourselves and having a healthy self-esteem and reaching self-actualization, he taught that we were to deny ourselves and to put on Christ and realize that without him we can do NOTHING!!! He taught pure humility in everything he did. He was born about as humbly as he could have been and he died as humbly as he could have possibly left this Earth. Think how about how he interacted with everyone he came across. Never domineering. Never prideful. He never assumed himself better than any. He got down with the sinners and lost. True, he spoke with authority and lead like no other leader in the history of the Earth, but he never did it in a condescending manner....except to those that were prideful.

So, instead of deciding we need to have self-esteem and self-actualization to reach “true enlightenment” or mental health, let’s go after the Christian’s Hierarchy of Needs.



## HOW IS PRIDE A PROBLEM IN MY LIFE?

We pride ourselves in:

- Grades
- Cars
- Tractors
- Big bucks (\$ or )
- Jobs
- Kids
- Intelligence
- Etc.

As I studied pride, I realized that I was guilty of all these things. I was priding myself in my job. I was priding myself in knowledge. I pride myself in my work ethic. I pride myself in the things I hang on my wall... but what the pride that worried me the most is the pride that Christ condemned most when he stepped up and really “preached it hard.”

The Real Pride Issue

- Pride in Righteousness
- Pride in Knowledge

- Pride in Wisdom
- Pride in Charity
- Pride in Humility
- Pride in Chastity
- Pride in Abstinence
- Pride in Non-Conformity

As I look at my life, pride in these things has been the most difficult to realize. I think the most deceitful and destructive pride that we can have is the pride in righteousness that I think we all have...

As I “perfected” my walk in Christ, I noticed something. It started getting harder for me to pray. I didn’t have as many weaknesses to pray for. I started feeling better about the things that I was doing. Maybe I don’t need as much forgiveness. (Sure, I can never be perfect, but I’m getting a lot closer.) I’m starting to do good.... Yeah, I’m a good Christian.....

PRIDE!!!!!!!!!!

(Mat 19:17) And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? *there is* none good but one, *that is*, God...

(Rom 7:18) For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but *how* to perform that which is good I find not.

(Rom 7:24) O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?

(1Co 15:9) For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle...

(1Co 4:4) For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord.

(Rom 3:9) What then? are we better *than they*? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin;(10) As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: (11) There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. (12) They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

If we think any higher of ourselves than the humility shown in these scriptures by our Savior and the Apostle Paul, men that lost their lives because of their righteousness, we’ve got some pride issues.

What do we catch ourselves saying, without even thinking about it?

- We’ve converted 5 people at this gospel meeting...
- We had 20 people come forward...
- I’ve baptized \_\_\_ people in my life
- I’ve started (or helped start) \_\_\_\_\_ congregations in my life
- I raised my kids in the Lord
- We go to church every Sunday
- Our young folks are doing so well
- I’ve never had sex
- I’ve never had a drink of alcohol

- I've never smoked a cigarette

...and the list goes on.

We're not justifying a life devoid of good works...

All our goodness is but dung....

**(Zep 3:11)** In that day shalt thou not be ashamed for all thy doings, wherein thou hast transgressed against me: for then I will take away out of the midst of thee them that rejoice in thy pride, and thou shalt no more be **haughty because of my holy mountain.**

Jews perverted the law of Moses with pride  
Christians pervert the law of Christ with pride... do we?

- Do we think like those Jews as more highly than those who aren't as we?
- Do we as Christians think more highly of those who are not?
- Do we pride ourselves in good works?
- Do we pride ourselves in staying away from sinful lusts?

**(Phi 3:3-16)** For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have **no confidence in the flesh.** (4) Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: (5) Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, *of* the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; (6) Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. (7) But **what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.** (8) Yea doubtless, and I **count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung,** that I may win Christ,

I think it's this pride that makes our beliefs so hard to swallow by so many around us. The truth we carry is so easy to see, but we make it so difficult to see when we pride ourselves so much in that truth and the righteousness that truth brings with it. We have to work extra hard to make sure we carry the truth with the humility of Christ, instead of the pride of the Pharisees...

**(Luk 18:9)** And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: (10) Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. (11) The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men *are*, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. (12) I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. (13) And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as *his* eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. (14) I tell you, this man went down to his house justified *rather* than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted. (15) And they brought unto him also infants, that he would touch them: but when *his* disciples saw *it*, they rebuked them. (16) But Jesus called them *unto him*, and said, Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. (17) Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein. (18) And a certain ruler asked him, saying,

Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? (19) And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? none *is* good, save one, *that is*, God.

(Mat 23:3) All therefore **whatsoever they bid you observe, *that observe and do***; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not. (4) For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay *them* on men's shoulders; but they *themselves* will not move them with one of their fingers. (5) **But all their works they do for to be seen of men**: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments, (6) And **love the uppermost rooms at feasts**, and the chief seats in the synagogues, (7) And **greetings in the markets**, and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi. (8) But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, *even* Christ; and all ye are brethren. (9) And call no *man* your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven. (10) Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, *even* Christ. (11) **But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant.**

(Mat 23:13) But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in *yourselves*, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in. (14) Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation. (15) Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye **compass sea and land to make one proselyte**, and when he is made, ye make him **twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.**

(Luk 11:44) Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are as graves which appear not, and the men that walk over *them* are not aware *of them*.

(Mat 23:24) *Ye* blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel. (25) Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess. (26) *Thou* blind Pharisee, cleanse first that *which is* within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also.

(Mat 23:30) And say, If **we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.** (31) Wherefore ye be witnesses unto yourselves, that ye are the children of them which killed the prophets. (32) Fill ye up then the measure of your fathers. (33) *Ye* serpents, *ye* generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?

Guess what? We killed our Savior, whether we think we would've participated at Calvary or not. We killed him with our sin.

*What's the Big Deal Anyways?*

We're haughty because we obey God's word. Paul said he counted all obedience dung!

(Mat 11:30) For my yoke *is* easy, and my burden is light.

(Rom 8:18) For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time *are* not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

So what's the big deal? The choice is obvious. God made it so easy for us. Why should we be proud that we chose Christianity? We didn't do anything to deserve it. We choose it because it's the easy and apparent choice. When we do what we consider righteousness, we're just once again choosing to be a Christian. So, once again, we have no reason to be

proud. We didn't do anything to deserve to live in righteousness, so we shouldn't think of ourselves more highly than we ought to think...

### *WHAT DO WE DO?*

Humble Yourself in the sight of the Lord

Humility- the state of being humble;

1) to make low, bring low

1a) to level, reduce to a plain

1b) metaphorically to bring into a humble condition, reduce to meaner circumstances

1b1) to assign a lower rank or place to

1b2) to abase

1b3) to be ranked below others who are honoured or rewarded

1b4) to humble or abase myself by humble living

1c) to lower, depress

1c1) of one's soul bring down one's pride

1c2) to have a modest opinion of one's self

1c3) to behave in an unassuming manner

1c4) devoid of all haughtiness

(Rom 12:3) For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

(Mat 11:29) Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for **I am meek and lowly in heart**: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

Meek- *depressed*, that is, (figuratively) *humiliated* (in circumstances or disposition): - base, cast down, humble, of low degree (estate), lowly.

(Psa 25:9) The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way.

(1Pe 3:4) But *let it be* the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, *even the ornament* of a **meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price**. (8) Finally, *be ye* all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, *be* pitiful, *be* courteous:

(1Th 4:11) And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you;

(Psa 34:18) The LORD *is* nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.

(Psa 51:17) The sacrifices of God *are* a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

(Psa 131:1) LORD, my heart is not haughty, nor mine eyes lofty: neither do I exercise myself in great matters, or in things too high for me. (2) Surely I have behaved and

quieted myself, as a child that is weaned of his mother: my soul *is* even as a weaned child.

In Conclusion:

We are not righteous. There is none righteous but our Father.

We are not good. There is none good but our Father.

We are not better than any other unrighteous or sinful man or woman on this Earth. If we have any of those thoughts and ideas, which we all do, we need to crucify them.

Let's get on our knees in the sight of our Lord.

Let's humble ourselves in the sight of our fellowman and show them Christ in how we interact. I hate hearing that I'm part of a group that thinks they're better than everybody else. And Christ hates it too! The only way that we can stop these thoughts and feelings is by humbling ourselves. Not by letting sin and darkness in, but by humbling ourselves to love those who are lost, not by judging them. And we'll never be able to get to that point until we think of ourselves as on the same level as them! So, when we see that sinner who's going to rot in Hell for cussing, fornicating, whoring, stealing, lying, cheating, murdering, etc., instead of joining the crowd throwing stones, let's get down on the ground with her, be meek, gentle, quiet, write in the ground, and humbly help her up and work alongside her instead of proclaiming ourselves leaders and telling her that if you don't want to rot in Hell you need to follow me and take off. I'm convinced that Christ's teaching shows that if we do that, we're deceiving ourselves with pride. We're really hurting his bride more than helping with that type of mentality.