

Avoiding the Pitfall of Pride

By Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam

“Do you love the world or the things of the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world – the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life – is not of the father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever” (1 John 2:15-17).

Our human nature loves the world instead of our Heavenly Father. We are blinded to the fact that the world can only offer us the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh and the pride of life. However, if we truly love God, there is no room for the love of the world. Pride is the love of power, position and popularity. No one is free from its clutches. Pride is the result of a feeling of low self-esteem and of insecurity. We doubt ourselves because we feel insecure. We do not know who we are and the secure position we have in Christ.

Pride is the Facade for Insecurity

To deal with pride we must first deal with insecurity. Firstly, insecurity is the weapon of Satan. He makes us feel condemned by accusing us but we must remember what John said in Revelation 12:10, *“Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, ‘Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.’”* Satan is real but he was defeated. In Christ we need not feel condemned or insecure although Satan will continuously accuse us.

In Job 1:8, God asked Satan, *“Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?”* In verse 9, Satan replied, *“Does Job fear God for nothing?”* Satan questions Job’s sincerity towards God, verse 11, *“But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!”* As long as we are determined to walk with God, Satan will always try to hinder us by accusing us. However, God’s Word encourages us in Romans 8:1, *“There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.”* If we are God’s children, we do not have to suffer from inferiority complex.

Secondly, insecurity is the result of sin. Sin brings guilt, and guilt robs us of our confidence, making us feel insecure. There are two directions we can take whenever we sin. We can go to Jesus and let Him be our Sin-bearer. Alternatively, we can, like Adam, run to the bushes and trees for cover; that is hiding behind the things of the world. We look for fine clothes, cars, houses, education, wealth, position, power, popularity... the list is long indeed. *“He who covers his sin will not prosper, but whoever confess and forsakes them will have mercy”* (Proverbs 28:13). We need mercy, not justice. We need to come under the blood of Jesus Christ. The answer to our guilt complex is simply to confess and repent (2 Corinthians 7:10).

Jesus, the Most Secure and Humble Person

Jesus is the antithesis of the proud man. He is God but He humble Himself to become a man. For our sakes, He left His Father, His throne and His heavenly glory. In order to overcome the pitfall of pride, we must emulate His humility.

Jesus expressed His humility through service. Philippians 2:6-8 states that even though Jesus was *“in the form of God,”* He chose to take a form of a servant. He knew who He was and His standing in God. He never grumbles or complains. He had no inferiority complex because he knew what He was doing. This was His secret humility. A government minister’s involvement in a “Gotong-Royong” (community work) project does not make him any less of a minister in the sight of others. Like Jesus, the minister is able to serve because he knows his position and reason for the service.

We too, must know our position in Christ. We must know that we belong to the King of kings and the Lord of lords. Our sins have been washed away and we are heirs to the Kingdom of God. Indeed, we are more than conquerors in Christ Jesus. Secure in knowing these facts, we are able to be humble. This is the Christians key to a life of humility and service.

How to Avoid the Pride of Life (James 4:7-10; Hebrews 10:25)

I would like to use the following scriptures as steps to avoid the pitfall of pride:

1. *“Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you”* (v.7).

Submit to God by accepting His way of salvation. Then, by an act by of faith, resist the devil and he will flee from you.

2. *“Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double minded”* (v.8)

Cleanse your hands and purify your hearts by faith in the Blood of Jesus Christ. Draw near to God with clean hands and a pure heart and He will surely draw near to you. His presence will give you the confidence and assurance you need to overcome the love for the world.

3. *“Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up”* (v. 10).

Humble yourselves before the Lord. Adopt His attitude of humility and do as He bids. *“Let nothing be done through selfish ambitions or conceit, but in lowliness of mind, each esteem others better than himself”* (Philippians 2:3). Then, God will lift you up.

4. *“... not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching”* (Hebrews 10:25)

Fellowship with other believers is a safeguard against pride. Our brothers and sisters in Christ will warn us against it. Thus, it is necessary to belong to the Body of Christ. In the fellowship of believers, we find strength and enablement to live humbly before God and man.

(All the Bible quotations are from the New King James Version).

CALVARY NEWS

Issue 46, July – August 1997