

God's Wisdom for Our Lives – Week 7

The Enemy of Wisdom: Pride

Review

1. Over-Arching Theme of Proverbs: Wisdom (The skill of living in reference to God)
 - a. The fear of the LORD is the foundation of Biblical wisdom (Prov 1:7, 9:10, 31:30)
 - i. “Lord, I trust you, and what you say goes, no matter what”.
 - ii. The fear of the Lord leads to godliness in everyday life.
2. Examining Key Themes Throughout the Proverbs
 - a. There Are Only Two Ways to Live: A Way to Life (Wisdom) and A Way to Death (Folly).
 - b. Don't Follow Your Heart – Lead It!
 - c. The Source of Sin is From Within
 - d. It's Expected to Be Corrected

Key Theme: The Enemy of Wisdom is Our Pride (Proverbs 8:13)

3. What do you normally think of when you think of sinful pride? What does it look like?
4. Are there some forms of pride that are more subtle than others or harder to recognize?
5. What's the difference between the kind of pride that God hates (Prov 8:13) and the kind of pride that we might speak of in a positive sense? For example, taking pride in your work (Gal 6:4) or being proud of someone else for a job well done (2 Cor 7:4)?

Sinful Pride Defined: Inordinate self-esteem; Arrogance; a disproportionate sense of self-importance or self-confidence.

Perhaps surprisingly, Pride is a pre-occupation with one's self that can manifest as either a sense of superiority or inferiority; An inordinate self-esteem or sense of self-importance that can manifest as either self-reliance or codependency; A strong commitment to one's own welfare that can manifest as either self-exaltation or self-loathing.

In every case, pride is the disposition that is *always mindful of self*.

6. Why would sinful pride be an enemy of wisdom?
7. How have the previous themes we have examined laid a foundation for this theme?

“Wisdom is heard by those who know that there is a fool who lurks within”. (Ed Welch)

Proverbs 11:2... When pride comes, then comes dishonor, But with the humble there is wisdom.

Proverbs 16:18... Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.

Proverbs 18:12... Before his downfall a man's heart is proud, but humility comes before honor.

8. According to these verses, when a person is functioning in pride, what should they expect?
 - a. Why is this hard to recognize when we are functioning in pride?
 - b. How is this related to Folly's invitation in Proverbs 9:18? Or the warning in Proverbs 14:12?

9. According to these verses, what accompanies wisdom and honor?

a. Considering our definition of the Fear of The Lord, what does humility have to do with wisdom?

Read Proverbs 16:5 and James 4:4-6

10. Why does pride end in destruction?

11. How is pride fundamentally against God?

Read James 3:13-17

12. In verse 16, James tells us that where you find pride (selfish ambition), there you'll find every kind of evil... How is pride at the root of all sin?

13. James shows us in verses 14-16 that pride is does not only put us in conflict with God, but also with others. How does prideful self-interest harm relationships with others?

14. Consider the ways you have or are struggling in certain relationships... Can you identify pride?

a. Identifying pride in life and in relationships:

i. Do you find it easier to focus on the sins of others? Or your own?

ii. What do you expect to bring you joy, security, and contentment? Is it someone or something? Or is it Christ and the blessing of suffering for the Gospel?

iii. What is the focus of your service? Do you insist that others meet certain "needs" for you? Or are you delighted to serve and meet the needs of others, even if yours are not?

iv. When someone hurts you, is it their responsibility to seek for reconciliation? Or do you have a responsibility as well?

15. Consider the areas where you struggle with sin... Can you identify pride?

a. Identifying pride in our sin:

i. What do you believe you deserve that God hasn't given you?

ii. What are you saying "yes" to, that God has said "no" to?

iii. When you sin, is it usually someone else's fault or the fault of your circumstances? Or are you ready to own it and repent?