

IMPACT

I Must **P**ersonally **A**cknowledge **C**hrist **T**oday
Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own under-
standing; *in all your ways acknowledge Him* and He shall direct your path.
Proverbs 3:5-6

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

Quote: Stuart Scott: “We all have the tendency to think too much about ourselves and too much of ourselves.” Chuck Swindol: “The world’s smallest package is a man wrapped up in himself.” Andrew Murray: “Pride is ‘the root of every sin and evil.’” Richard Baxter: “[Pride is] so undiscerned by the most, that it is commonly cherished while it is commonly spoke against.”

For Christians to truly glorify God, “we must embrace and live out humility in order to truly live and be who God means for us to be”¹—image-bearers of Christ! In his book *From Pride to Humility*, Dr. Stuart Scott states, “Six different Hebrew words are used for pride. All of them convey lifting up, highness, magnification, presumptuousness, or rebelliousness of self.”

“In the Greek language, the words for pride occur in two different categories. One particular word group suggests the idea of ‘straining or stretching one’s neck,’ ‘to magnify,’ or ‘to be haughty.’ (as if to hold one’s head up high because of what one thinks he has made himself or accomplished).” This makes me think of the “Peacocks” that perform in Hollywood and in professional sports—most of whom are full of themselves as they strut before the cameras while living in a world of fantasy. It is tragic to see that, when their gaudy “plumage” and abilities are brought low by age, most of them become a shallow “has been.” Quite the opposite of someone like Paul who grew in stature that paralleled his humble imitation of Christ. He said, “For to me, **TO LIVE IS CHRIST**, and to die is gain!”²

“The other category in the Greek conveys a ‘blindness’ and even suggests the idea of being ‘enveloped with smoke.’”¹ “Biblical synonyms for pride are: vainglory, conceit, boasting, arrogance, loftiness, presumption, haughtiness, being puffed up, high-mindedness, scoffing, and self-seeking.” People afflicted with this kind of pride are ignorant of blind spots when it comes to their sense of self-importance! What can Christians do to battle pride that God hates? We must be intentional in our effort not to be self-promoting and we must make

God’s Word central in the following ways—

We must humbly **acknowledge** that we are the possession of the Lord Jesus Christ who purchased us with His shed blood, enables us to glorify God, and rewards our faithful service.³ **God’s Righteousness At Christ’s Expense. God’s Resources And Christ’s Enabling. God’s Riches At Christ’s Exaltation.**

We must **affirm** the written Word of God in our **head** and give mental assent that it is what it claims to be—the inspired, inerrant, all-sufficient guide for life and godliness.⁴ [Faith and faithfulness are Bible based!]

We must **absorb** the Word of God into the very essence of who we are in our **heart**—the wellspring of our thoughts, will and emotions.⁵

We must **apply** the written Word of God to our **habits** as we interact with others for their good and God’s glory.⁶

Reject the Fatal— Pride, Part II

We must **“author”** the Word of God into our **history** through a consistent life-style that acknowledges Him in all of our ways by pursuing righteousness and fleeing from evil. When we are acknowledging Christ, Who is the supreme example of humility, it is most difficult to tout self-importance (attitude), self-accomplishment (actions) and self promotion (speech).⁷

We must **accept** the truth that our pride is a sinful affront to the glory and grace of God Who is the Giver of every good and perfect gift, in particular eternal life through faith in the death and resurrection of His Son.⁸

The Bible is full of weapons to battle the sin of pride. “In all your ways acknowledge Him.” “Fear God and keep His commandments.” “(Christ) must increase, but I must decrease.” “Do all to the glory of God.” “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”⁹ We simply must take the battle with our flesh seriously, and realize that victory is assured through Christ alone!

¹ Dr. Stuart Scott; Rom.8:29; II Cor.3:18 ² Phil.1:21; ³ I Cor. 6:19-20; I Peter 1:17-19 ⁴ II Tim.3:16-17; II Peter 1:1-4; Psa.37:30-31 ⁵ Psa.119:11 ⁶ Eph.4:1-3; I Cor.10:31-33; Phil.2:3-4 ⁷ Prov.3:5-7 ⁸ James 1:17; I Cor.4:7; Jn.3:16; Eph.1 ⁹ Eccl.12:13; Prov.3:6; Jn.3:30; I Cor.10:31; I Pet.5:5-7;