

**Module** : Understanding, Accessing & Growing in GRACE

**Session 18** : Indicators of Pride That Repel the Grace of God - Part 3

**Focus** : Symptoms of Pride (continued)

Combining the two previous sessions, we have isolated the following **indicators of pride that repel grace - prideful indicators to which God is opposed**:

1. Focus on Economic and Physical Welfare to the Total Disregard of Spiritual Welfare
2. Incomplete or Partial Obedience
3. Having Fame and Influence, but no intention of using it for Kingdom Advancement
4. No Mastery over Carnal Fleshly Nature
5. Refusal to Acknowledge God as the Source of Success
6. Independence of God and Self-Reliance
7. Strong in One's own Eyes / Strong in One's own Strength
8. Becoming Strong and Proud
9. Acting Corruptly
10. Unfaithfulness to the Lord
11. Crossing the Boundary of one's Function and Grace Calling
12. Refusal to Accept Correction
13. Uncontrollable Anger
14. Thinking You are Strong Within Yourself - in Your Own Human Strength, Instead of Being Strong in the Grace of Christ.
15. Arrogance and Inflated Self-Esteem.
16. Superiority Complex and Delusions of Grandeur
17. Carnal Insistence on the Use of Titles and/or References to Accomplishment.
18. Feelings of Entitlement - You Have Expectations.
19. False Assumption and Presumption of Public Honour
20. Stubbornness
21. False Assumption of Roles/Functions/Responsibilities to Which God Has Not Called You to, Yet Which You Presumptuously Assume.
22. Wanting Recognition, Acknowledgement and Praise for Every Significant or Positive Development or Result Produced in the Kingdom Through Some or all of your Efforts.
23. Boastfulness
24. Self-Praise
25. Unwillingness to Credit God as the Reason for Success or Breakthrough.
26. Taking Rejection Too Personally.
27. Blindness to the Necessity for Community Within the Body of Christ.

In the present session we continue with more indicators of pride.

## 28. Inability to Love - as Evidence of True Knowledge

### 1 Cor. 8:1-3

- 1 Now concerning things sacrificed to idols, we know that we all have knowledge.  
**Knowledge makes arrogant, but love edifies.**
- 2 If anyone supposes that he knows anything, he has not yet known as he ought to know;
- 3 but if **anyone loves God, he is known by Him.**

1 Cor. 13:2 If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

1 Cor. 13:4 Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant.

Knowledge puffs up a person, making him/her susceptible to pride and arrogance. Love is not arrogant - 1 Cor. 13:4.

The potential prideful effects of knowledge are held in opposition to the edifying effects of love. Knowledge breeds pride, which is self-indulgent and selfish. Love, on the other hand, is selfless and more focused on the need of the other.

Knowledge without love is vanity: "If I ... know all mysteries and all knowledge ..., but do not have love, I am nothing." - 1 Cor. 13:2. These words "I am nothing" apply to the one who is knowledgeable without love.

By natural standards, knowledge would make someone a man of worth, admiration and respect. By spiritual standards, love does the same. Knowledge per se is not evil. In fact it is very necessary and essential - for without it, the people of God perish. However, the caution to note in these scriptures is that all knowledge must culminate in, be evidence of, and expressed and administrated by the principle of love. God is love and love is the most accurate description of who He is. The person who loves has a knowledge and understanding of the nature of God that cannot be attained through knowledge that is simply the acquisition of facts and data. Love is experiential knowledge.

Love is the highest expression of true knowledge. Hear how Paul describes the goal of his teaching/instruction:

**1 Tim. 1:5** But the **GOAL** of our **INSTRUCTION** is **LOVE** from a **pure heart** and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

**AMP** : Whereas the **object and purpose of our instruction** and charge is **love**,

**ERV** : **My purpose in telling you to do this is to promote love ...**

**ESV** : The aim of our charge is **love ...**

**MSG** : The whole point of what we're urging is simply **love ...**

**NIRV** : **Love** is the **purpose of my command ...**

**NIV** : The goal of this command is **love, ...**

When instruction or teaching is given, the intention is so that those instructed would ultimately OBEY. The yardstick of understanding biblical truth is outward obedience of the truth (Psalm 110:11). Knowing the truth sets one free (John 8:32). This knowledge of truth demands that the truth be understood. Understanding of truth is not gauged by an ability to accurately articulate the truth, but by actually doing or living out the truth.

Paul explains to his spiritual son, Timothy, that the ultimate aim of his teaching is to see him become an embodiment of the love of God, which comes forth from a pure heart, a good conscience and a sincere faith. When we love, we testify to the fact that we have understood instruction and truth, having obeyed it and expressing it in its most mature form - i.e. to love all men.

#### **1 Cor. 8:1b**

**YLT** : **Knowledge puffeth up, but love buildeth up;**

**BBE** : **Knowledge gives pride, but love gives true strength.**

**NLT** : While **knowledge makes us feel important, it is love that really builds the church.**

Love edifies - BUILDS UP - so let us pursue love.

**Rom 14:19** So then we **pursue the things** which make for peace and the **building up of one another.**

You are only truly knowledgeable when you are completely and sincerely loving. Knowing and functioning in the love of Christ surpasses all knowledge.

**Eph. 3:19** and **to know the love of Christ** which **surpasses knowledge**, that you may be filled up to all **the fullness of God.**

Note here that the fullness of God is set in terms of knowing the LOVE of Christ. God is love and so you can never be filled with the fullness of God apart from maturing in His love - or allowing His love to mature in you. Having attained this, positions one within a realm of divine

representation that actually far surpasses any attempt to cognitively know it. His love surpasses knowledge.

Some people attempt to KNOW God without HIM unveiling Himself and drawing them into His nature in order to impart it to them. They seek to know Him without Him making Himself known to them. You cannot know God without God. This expression of knowledge is limited. The love of God is a revelation of the knowledge of God. Therefore love is true knowledge and Divine love surpasses and is higher than any other dimension of human knowledge. So then, rather excel in that which is surpassing of human intellect by its very nature; excel in love and you rank above the one who claims knowledge without the capacity to love.

TRUE knowledge is to know Christ, the mystery of God.

### Col. 2:1-3

- 1 For I want you to know how great a struggle I have on your behalf and for those who are at Laodicea, and for all those who have not personally seen my face,
- 2 that their hearts may be encouraged, **having been knit together in love**, and *attaining* to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding, resulting in a true knowledge of God's mystery, that is, Christ Himself,
- 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

1 John 4:8      The one who does not love does **not know God**, for **God is love**.

The highest knowledge attainable is a knowing of God. God is love – love comes from Him (1 John 4:7). If the ultimate practical effect of knowledge is a greater intimate knowing and understanding of God who is love, then the most accurate indicator of true knowledge is seen in the demonstration of divine love. 1 John 4:7 implies this plainly - if you claim knowledge of God, it will be seen in the way you love.

1 John 4:7,8      Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

He who is full pride through knowledge cannot fully love, but he who in humility loves completely as evidence and expression of his knowledge, is less prone to pride, and so reflects the Divine nature. Love all men, even your enemies, with absolute Divine sincerity and pride will have no power to establish itself as a stronghold within you.

## 29. Insistence on the exploration and expression of your gift, without it being rooted in love.

Love focuses and places the emphasis on the importance of the one who is being ministered to via the gift. Gift-expression, not prompted by love, places emphasis on the efficiency of the practitioner of the gift, where the motivation it is to showcase how efficient they are, and not really to minister grace to the one to whom the administration of the gift is meant.

## 30. Jealousy

**James 3:14** But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not **be ARROGANT** and so lie against the truth.

Envy and jealousy manifests as covetousness where you desire to have what another has, but cannot attain it within your present means or within present protocols governing the righteousness of your behaviour. For example, you may have a wife but covet another man's wife; righteousness prevents you from divorcing your wife to pursue the other. You may remain married to your wife and yet in your heart covet the other man's wife. Envy and jealousy gain root within you because in pride, you deem yourself so important that you are deserving of what the other has, and sometimes even more deserving than the other. Thus jealousy and envy are not light things.

## 31. Personal Ambition that is Selfish and Self-Centred.

### **James 3:14-16**

- 14 But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not **be ARROGANT** and so lie against the truth.
- 15 This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic.
- 16 For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing.

Jealousy/Envy results from covetousness or envy over that which someone else has, or the level of success they enjoy. Note in James 3:14 quoted above, it is described as 'BITTER jealousy' and is coupled with 'SELFISH AMBITION'. Having ambition in and of itself is not bad, but selfish ambition is frowned upon here. The bitter person has selfish ambition.

Spiritual ambition, which is centred in self, fixates the accomplishment of a task or the attainment of some position, solely in **bolstering the person's reputation in the eyes of others**. By this, they derive their esteem and worth. So when they are unable to bring fruition to their intent, bitterness is further entrenched and finds a nesting ground within their hearts. Jealousy of others who attain their goals is then further nurtured and so the duo of

bitter jealousy and selfish ambition becomes the fertile ground in which 'disorder' and 'every evil thing' grows and develops. There can be no positive result at all.

Centre your ambition in accomplishing outcomes that involve you, but the attainment of these outcomes must also have a positive impact or blessing on others outside of you. This will prevent self-centredness and selfish ambition.

Do not allow a spirit of competition to enter your heart. Jealousy thrives in a competitive environment. Celebrate the accomplishments of others, instead of becoming bitter by their successes. Do not rejoice over the failure of others, but rather seek to help them succeed. Do not see yourself as an individual but as a part of a greater whole. See yourself and others as complementary to each other and not in competition with each other.

Prideful selfish ambition manifests as the inability to celebrate the success of your fellow man/brother. If you cannot honestly celebrate the success of someone else, especially in an area where you are personally desirous of that success, you subconsciously grant permission to a spirit of satanic jealousy and envy to enter you. Again, this is especially the case, when in the area you seek advancement, your brother seems to progress effortlessly. You become jealous over God's favour of another, instead of using the success of your brother to help you address your own deficiency in the same area in which you want success.

Consider how Cain murdered Abel because Abel's offering was acceptable to God, whilst his was not. (Gen. 4:1-16; 1 John 3:11,12). He was envious of the Divine approval on and acceptance of his brother's offering.

### 1 John 3:11-15

- 11 For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another;
- 12 not as Cain, who was of the evil one and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay him? Because **his deeds were evil, and his brother's were righteous.**
- 13 Do not be surprised, brethren, if the world hates you.
- 14 We know that we have **passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren.** He who does not love abides in death.
- 15 Everyone **who hates his brother is a murderer;** and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

The scripture below encourages us to celebrate the victories of each other, instead of being envious and jealous:

**Psalms 20:4,5** May He grant you your heart's desire And fulfill all your counsel! We will sing for joy over your victory, and in the name of our God we will set up our banners. May the Lord fulfill all your petitions.

## 32. Bitterness

When you are hurt in your soul and become embittered in the process, however justified one may feel to be offended and hurt by the incident or offending person, the fact that you became bitter places you arrogantly above the perpetrator of the offence, whilst you simultaneously have judged the person worthy of your condemnation, your unforgiveness and subsequent harsh treatment.

**Heb. 12:15** See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled;

**Note:** Bitterness has been dealt with extensively in my teaching series 'Healing The Wounded Soul' available as a free download on my website. See endnotes<sup>1</sup> for a direct link.

## 33. Unforgiveness

Most often unforgiveness is rooted in hurt or offense and if left unchecked, results in anger, resentment and bitterness. Unforgiveness is a manifestation of **pride simply because in refusing to forgive the one who hurt or offended you, you essentially are violating a clear command of Scripture and expectation of God to forgive.** Thus unforgiveness is disobedience, which equates to pride. It is prideful because, in your judgment, you have concluded that the offending person is unworthy of their sin against you being forgiven and removed. This position is **anti-God** in every way, since Christ died for us while we were still in the deepest state of our own sinfulness. Christ positioned Himself reconciliatory towards us, even when we did not yet repent.

When you forgive, you demonstrate humility, for you are more focused on the spiritual state and destiny of the offending person than on your own. **It has often been said that when we forgive we are doing it for our own sakes.** There is a measure of truth in this statement, for if we do not forgive, we maintain bitterness and so cut ourselves off from the grace of God and the forgiveness of God. We also make ourselves susceptible to satanic attack in a host of areas. But, **we must also forgive because we are genuinely concerned for the one who we are forgiving.** Forgiveness that just has you as its pre-eminent concern and not the one you are forgiving, is self-centred and can never really be a representation of God's forgiveness, for when God forgives, He does so for the primary benefit of the one being forgiven. The motivation to forgive that has YOU as its primary concern and not the offender or the one that has hurt you, is an expression of pride.

(Refer to my series on HEALING THE WOUNDED SOUL, wherein we discuss the necessity to master forgiveness of those who have hurt us. You may download the audio and pdf notes from my website. See Endnotes for details<sup>2</sup>)

### 34. Constant Reversion to Past Failures of Others

**Isaiah 43:18,19**

"Do not call to mind the former things, Or PONDER things of the PAST. "Behold, I will do something NEW, Now it will spring forth; Will you not be aware of it? I will even make a roadway in the wilderness, Rivers in the desert.

Note the demand here : To access the new thing God is about to do, deliberately desist from pondering on the issues from the past. You will not be aware of the new thing God is about to do, if your mind is crowded out by issues from your past, either relative to you personally or with others who have hurt and disappointed you.

Note the imperative in this Scripture: '*DO NOT CALL TO MIND*', i.e. deliberately do not meditate, ponder or reflect on it in your mind. Also do not speak to others about it. Do not rehearse it conversationally with someone. The more you speak of it, the more you entrench it in the mind.

**Phil. 3:13,14**

Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: **FORGETTING WHAT LIES BEHIND** and **REACHING FORWARD TO WHAT LIES AHEAD**, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

You cannot press ahead in forward progression towards maturity in Christ and the accomplishment of your destiny if you are hampered and hamstrung by past failure or incidence. There will be no 'reaching forward' until you 'forget what lies behind'.

If you want to fast-forward the attainment of destiny in Christ in a frictionless way and live life in the 'FAST LANE' in pursuit of God's will for your life, you cannot simultaneously live your life in the 'PAST LANE' reminding yourself or being reminded by others and thus shackled by historic failure, sin, hurt, disappointment, anger, resentment and unforgiveness either of your own or somebody else. If you have sincerely repented, move on. You cannot travel FAST in a PAST lane. Move on my brother or sister! Forget past hurt, failures, disappointments and sins.

Do not hold someone's sins or failures against them when God Himself has forgiven them and has cleared those sins from their record. Learn to press the delete button in the files of your heart where you have saved and stored data on someone's past sins or failure.

**Consider Philemon and Onesimus: Read the one chapter in the book of Philemon.** Paul had to upgrade Philemon as to the drastic transformation within his once unprofitable servant, Onesimus. Onesimus proved unproductive in his work and eventually had deserted his Master Philemon. He then encountered Paul and his life changed. Philemon



was unaware of God's deep and profound work in Onesimus' life. If Philemon held on to an outdated view of Onesimus, he would not have embraced the new and transformed Onesimus, and thus rob himself of the blessing Onesimus could be to him. When we maintain distance from someone because of their past failure, whereas in the meantime, without our knowledge, they are Divinely changed and are in a new place altogether, we rob ourselves of the potential grace and blessing that person could dispense to us. Holding on to the past - the past failure of a brother or sister in Christ is not worth it no matter how you view it.

**Read the account of the prodigal son in Luke 15:11-31:** Consider the elder brother in reference to his younger brother. He harboured bitterness towards his younger brother because the younger brother wasted his father's inheritance. The father forgave the younger son, but the older brother could not forgive the younger brother. When our Heavenly Father forgives his son, we who are brothers ought to do the same. Not to do the same is to be proud.

Also, the younger son did not do anything specific to his older brother to hurt or offend him personally. The older brother was angry because of what the younger son did to the father. At times we become offended not for anything personally done to us, but we take up an offense toward someone, because of how they have treated someone we hold in honour. Whilst there may be some measure of merit in this stance, the danger is that when the one on whose behalf you have taken up the offence reconciles with the offending person, you must also adjust your own mindset to the offending person. To maintain the original offense is to be proud. God will resist the proud.

Joseph's first son was named Manasseh:

#### **Gen 41:50-57**

Now before the year of famine came, two sons were born to Joseph, whom Asenath, the daughter of Potiphara priest of On, bore to him. Joseph named the firstborn Manasseh, "For," he said, "God has made me forget all my trouble and all my father's household." He named the second Ephraim, "For," he said, "God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction." \_When the seven years of plenty which had been in the land of Egypt came to an end, and the seven years of famine began to come, just as Joseph had said, then there was famine in all the lands, but in all the land of Egypt there was bread. So when all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried out to Pharaoh for bread; and Pharaoh said to all the Egyptians, "Go to Joseph; whatever he says to you, you shall do." When the famine was spread over all the face of the earth, then Joseph opened all the storehouses, and sold to the Egyptians; and the famine was severe in the land of Egypt. The people of all the earth came to Egypt to buy grain from Joseph, because the famine was severe in all the earth.

**Manasseh** = One who causes to forget; forgetting; forgetfulness; causing forgetfulness

God made Joseph forget the hurt of his brothers, but unfortunately the hurt of his brothers made Joseph forget his father's house. The father's house is the means through which his prophetic destiny is to be fulfilled, hence when Jacob is finally brought down to Egypt, his prophetic utterances over Joseph and all the other brothers has the effect of giving definition to their destiny.

Do not forget issues you have to deal with now. It will soon catch up with you. We must forgive and forget, not remaining unforgiving and then attempt to forget.

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### Here is a summation of prideful indicators form the past three sessions:

1. Focus on Economic and Physical Welfare to the Total Disregard of Spiritual Welfare
2. Incomplete or Partial Obedience
3. Having Fame and Influence, but no intention of using it for Kingdom Advancement
4. No Mastery over Carnal Fleshly Nature
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29. Insistence on the exploration and expression of your gift, without it being rooted in love.
30. Jealousy
31. Personal Ambition that is Selfish and Self-Centred.
32. Bitterness
33. Unforgiveness
34. Constant Reversion to Past Failures of Others

May all grace and peace abound to you,  
Randolph Barnwell

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**ENDNOTES:**

1. <http://randolphbarnwell.com/topical.html>
2. <http://randolphbarnwell.com/topical.html>