

Missionary Evangelism to Corrections

Sharing the gospel & Christ's love

with those in corrections since 1982

Problem Thinking & the Lord's Healing: Bad Pride/Good Pride

Pride is a challenge to write about. We all have it; it can be extremely negative, have horrible effects and can disguise itself. In reviewing Biblical verses on pride I found that we can also have pride in good things. What we have pride in is extremely important.

Old Testament verses indicate that Pharaoh (Gen 9:17), Ruben (Gen 49), Israel (several), Adonijah (I King 19), Hezekiah (2 Chron. 17), and Nebuchadnezzar (Dan. 4) reflected pride by not respecting the LORD. (Numb 15). It is associated with loftiness, arrogance, haughtiness and deceit, and lack of concern. It is borne and it grows (Jer. 48 & 49, Ezk. 7, 16 & 30, Hos. 7) This was reflected by not paying attention to (Deut. 1), not giving thought to (Deut. 10) and going against (I Sam. 15) His commands, His priests and His wishes. Those that spoke words as if they were of God when they were not (Deut. 18), trust or work in their own strength and not God's (Deut. 32, Judges 7), worked against God's people (Gen 9, Ps. 36, Zeph. 2), were proud and had arrogance, wrath, cursing, lying, & foolish, perverted or uncontrolled speech (Prov. 11&14, Isa. 16, I Sam. 2, Ps. 59), wanted to make themselves king (I King. 19), gave no return for the benefit they received and had stiff necks shown by paying no attention to God's orders (Neh. 9), did things God did not ordain them to do (2 Chron. 25 & 26),

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January 31st, 2016 Newsletter

MEC Spotlight

Friday Night Washington County Jail Team

These men bless the Lord and us when they use their Friday evenings to minister to the men at the Washington County Jail.



Jim Johnson - "I am not sure how long I have been with MEC but it has to be 10+ years. When the Prison Fellowship program at Stillwater ended I was pleased to find

MEC. I started visiting juveniles and developed a passion and understanding for the battle Satan is waging for their souls. Regrettably, personnel changes at the jail [caused the juvenile meetings to end, but this did] provide an opening to the men's Bible study. Fridays continue to be my favorite day of the week because I can witness the Holy Spirit transforming lives in ways I never would have seen. On one occasion I have seen the fruits of how the finding of Jesus in His word in WCJ spread to an effective witness inside Oak Park Heights prison."



Peter Doherty shared some of his testimony at MEC's fall gathering which is available on CD if you missed it. Beginning at age 13, an addiction to drugs and alcohol lasted 35 years.

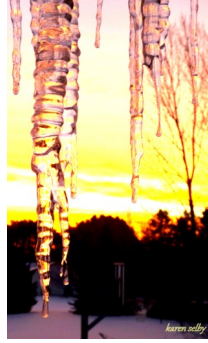
Bankruptcy, divorce, and serious contemplation of

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January Highlights

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Your feedback on articles can help Inmates

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 stuffed themselves, were
 idle and persecuted or did
 not strengthen the poor (Ps.
 10, Ezk. 16), do not seek
 God or keep Him in their
 thoughts, (Ps.10, Hos. 7),
 got drunk (Isa. 28) and
 replaced what God cut
 down with their own solu-
 tions without seeking God's (Isa. 9). The
 proud are called mockers, scoffers, and
 haughty (Prov. 21), Pride brought wrath
 and punishment, wasteland and testing on
 themselves and others (Lev. 6, Deut. 8,
 Deut. 17). It compasses people as a chain
 and is associated with violence which is
 like a garment, (Ps. 73), brings shame,
 dishonor, disgrace, strife and contention,
 (Prov. 11 & 13) humbles or brings people
 low (Prov. 29), doesn't see the end of a
 matter, (Ecc. 7) and precedes destruction
 and falls (Prov. 16, Hos. 5).



God hates pride and arrogance, evil
 conduct and perverted speech. (Prov. 8)
 God saves those that are in trouble and
 makes the proud become low (2 Sa. 22). He
 wants to put negative pride to death, stain
 it, bring contempt to it (Isa. 23) mar it (Jer.
 13), bring wrath on it, bring it down & us
 down from it, (Deut. 10, Jer. 13 & 49, Isa.
 23& 25) make it low (Deut. 8), dispose and
 abase it, despoil it and cut it off (Zech 9 &
 11) in order to bring positives, (Dan. 4 & 5)
 He weeps deeply in secret with tears
 running down His face over us if we have
 pride (Jer. 13)

Other OT verses indicate that God
 sees and knows the motivations of our
 hearts (Josh. 22), that hearts can be
 circumcised and pride put away (Deut. 10),
 pride of hearts can be broken (Lev. 26),
 people can be accused of pride when they
 have the right motives (I Sam. 17), we can
 repent (2 Chron. 32, Dan. 4) and our hearts
 can be lifted up in the ways of Yahweh
 (2Chron. 17). Pharaoh did not humble
 himself and was destroyed. (Ex. 14, Ps.
 136) Hezekiah (2Chron. 32) and Nebuchad-

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suicide impeded him until he turned his
 life over to God and committed to follow
 Christ. He had some great pastors and
 teachers who helped Him grow in the
 Lord. He was at a retreat praying for God
 to use him when Jim Johnson sat down
 to talk and Peter shared his story, which
 led to Jim inviting him to share with those
 in WCJ. Peter's sharing of the gospel and
 bringing men from sin to fruits of the
 Spirit reminds me of I Tim. 1:16 17 "But
 for that very reason I was shown mercy so
 that in me, ... Christ Jesus might display
 his immense patience as an example for
 those who would believe in him and re-
 ceive eternal life."



Keith Heintz has been in-
 volved in WCJ since 2001.
 His testimony is reflected in
 his love for his family (He
 and Beth have 5 children)
 and the ministry. He has
 coordinated schedules and gotten others
 involved. He shares, "Thank you for
 sponsoring this ministry. I still remember
 the day I heard Saul on KKMS... I felt the
 Lord calling me to [it] even though I
 wasn't ready to lead, – or so I thought.

Spotlight Cont pg 4

Ministry Friends

We know that we are not alone in Minis-
 try.

This month's shout-out is to

Marie Sandvik Center

1112 East Franklin Ave,
 Po Box 583692
 Minneapolis, MN 55404
 Ph)(612) 870-9617

Worship service, kids programs, hot meals
 & clothing. Sun., Tues., Thurs. & Fri.
 Times vary. See schedule at
www.mariesandvikcenter.org/calendar/

I partnered with Ken Dobbs. This was a huge blessing as he knew his Bible more than anyone I had ever met, and challenged me to lean it. I can safely say that, over time, God took my weaknesses, and turned them into strengths. I used to cringe if more than 4 people came; now the Lord has me hope and pray for 16 guys each time. I am by far more blessed than the men who attend. God has shown me that I am no different because we all have sinned and therefore desperately need Jesus as Savior. I thank God for allowing me to do this.”



Paul Manders was “very confused about who God really is and His plan for us, but fireworks went off when he really read the bible ... and understood the truth about Jesus. He was broken, knowing full well that “I can't earn my salvation, but rather needed to place all my trust in a savior, our Lord Jesus Christ.” His favorite verse is Rev. 21:3 “and I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.” ...I really love jail ministry because individuals are seeking for change. They are in the valley and do not want to be there. Meeting them where they are and helping them turn around ... I love their desire to hear about the Lord.”

Kyle Loing went through confirmation, but social use with friends and confronting his mother's death from alcohol was difficult. When he got engaged, premarital counseling coursework was extremely important in bringing him back to personal faith in God. Neighbors brought them to Bible based fellowship, pointed them to church and mentored them.. 2 Corinthians 5:17 "if anyone is in Christ he is a new creation" reminds me that He has washed me of my sins and I am completely new and free from sin.” Listening, encouraging, serving, sharing fellowship & the gospel, and building others up are Kyles gifts.



Paul Kuivinen Paul came to Christ in 1972 at age nine. He was saved from a life of meaningless self-service and in Argentina in 1987, realized the most significant thing he could do was to invest in the souls of others. His references share that “He has the gift of mercy, compassion, teaching, hospitality and is a wonderful lover of people. Serving as one of Rock Point's international overseas & local workers and a mentor, Paul loves God and others deeply - especially the down cast and struggling. He is able to lead people into the Bible and help them discover their need before God, [Christ's salvation] and God's love for them.”

Paul Ylonen's reports reflect the topics he and others are teaching and how they are related to the specific concerns of the men they are ministering to. He includes information about the men's struggles, their strengths and the potential they have for ministering to those in their units. Ylonen also includes encouragement for his team members and encourages new volunteers to be involved.



Bad Pride/Good Pride Cont . nezzar (Dan. 4) were humbled and humbled themselves and found grace and honor again.

Deut. 10: 12b-13 says ...what does the Lord your God ask of you except to fear the Lord your God by walking in all His ways, to love Him, and to worship the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul? Keep the Lord’s commands and statutes I am giving you today, for your own good.”

In the New Testament Paul confronts those who have pride in sins so grievous that pagans don’t do them, appearance over truth (Mt. 23, 2 Cor.5, James 2), knowledge without love (1 Cor. 13), thinking ourselves better than others, lust for what is in the world (1Jn. 2) and passing judgement before God’s time (I Cor. 4). Pride is listed with other sins such as people loving themselves and money, given to bitter words, never giving praise, not seeking God, not listening to authority or not having any religion (2 Tim. 3), having no true knowledge – but being crazy over discussions and controversies which bring ...quarrels and suspicions, adulteries, greed, evil actions, deceit, promiscuity, stinginess, blasphemy, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, hated by God, without respect, full of loud talk, evil intentions, not honoring father or mother, lustful desires, envy, slander, foolishness and novices who teach (Mt. 7, Rom. 1, 1Tim. 3 & 6, 2 Tim. 3). Satan speaks words of pride against God (Rev. 13). With His arm, He has done acts of power and put to flight those who have pride.in their hearts. (Lk 1) God hates pride (1Pe. 5, 1Jn. 2)



We have no reason for pride because our salvation and standing with God is a gift, the reasoning of man is useless and it is only because of God’s wisdom and power that we have this gift and belong to Him (Rom. 2 & I Cor. 3), thus we should do His work without pride (Acts 20, Rom. 3 & 11)

Scripture gives us what to do with pride. Circumcise the heart and put it away (Duet.8) Fear the Lord is to hate evil. (Prov.8) Put away the pride, dirt ... and evil (1Pe. 5), Seek humility & wisdom (Prov. 1 &11) Listen now; not hardening our hearts (Heb. 3), Take in The Word without pride (Ja. 1) and Let love be the most important. (1 Cor. 8 & 13). We can take pride in God, His word and His people. God is without pride and taking His yoke brings rest. (Mt. 9:11)

See the adjacent chart to see what scripture says to take pride in.

So we need to ask ourselves, what do we glory in?

“This is what the Lord says: The wise man must not boast in his wisdom; the strong man must not boast in his strength; the wealthy man must not boast in his wealth. But the one who boasts should boast in this, that he understands and knows Me— that I am Yahweh, showing faithful love, justice, and righteousness on the earth, for I delight in these things. This is the Lord’s declaration. Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord that he understands and knows Me— that I am Yahweh, showing faithful love, justice, and righteousness on the earth, for I delight in these things. This is the Lord’s declaration.” Jeremiah 9:23 HCSB



“I will boast in the Lord; the humble will hear and be glad.” Psalm 34:2 HCSB.

In Him, Karen Selby

Good which scripture says pride is taken in:

- ◇ in the Lord that he understands and knows Me— that I am Yahweh, showing faithful love, justice, and righteousness on the earth (Ps. 39Jer. 9)
- ◇ Parents (Prov. 17)
- ◇ Humility/Humble spirit & wisdom, taking advice - brings honor (Prov. 11 &29)
- ◇ Good/Wise speech—protects us (Prov. 14) ◇ Ministry (Rom. 11)
- ◇ The law of faith which shuts out pride (Rom. 3)
- ◇ Christ Jesus in the things which are God's, ministering as a priest sharing the gospel. (Rom. 15)
- ◇ In each other - us –not appearance or seeming, but the things of the heart (2 Cor. 5)
- ◇ You – the churches of God – and the good things said about you. Titus & the Corinthians (2 Thes.1, 2 Cor. 7)
- ◇ Agreeing, feeling, loving and caring for one another, coming under authority of those older, being servants and making oneself low (1Pe. 3)
- ◇ Bringing to light what is hidden, applying that to yourself so that pride doesn't cause people to be puffed up against each other .. (1 Cor.4)
- ◇ The things which are written - Scripture (1 Cor. 4)
- ◇ Not charging for the gospel, being compelled, obligated and a steward to preach (1 Cor. 9)
- ◇ A life of dying, dying daily (I Cor. 15, 2 Cor.7)
- ◇ Giving (2Cor. 9) ◇ Making yourself low (1Pe. 5)
- ◇ Untroubled mind, faith in trouble and sorrows (2 Thes. 1)
- ◇ Authority to build up believers (2 Cor. 10)
- ◇ Hebrew, descendant of Abraham, Servant of Christ, imprisoned, lashed, beaten with rods, stoned, shipwrecked, in danger, labor, hardship, hunger, thirst, exposure, daily concern for the church and individuals (2 Cor. 11)
- ◇ Weakness, being feeble - God's strength (2 Cor. 12)
- ◇ His own work, not charging for the gospel (Gal. 6)
- ◇ In me is increased by being with you by my presence, -being with you- (Phil. 1)
- ◇ Being quiet, doing your business, working with your hands (1Thes. 4)
- ◇ The humble or poor in spirit being lifted up and the rich in being made humble (Ja. 1) Mercy, overcoming judging (Ja.2), Grace (Ja. 4)



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