

The Way of the Wise: Humility, not Pride!

(From Navigator's book "Proverbs"):

Hebrew word for **Proud**. Literally, "to be high". The word can mean "exalted" or "haughty".

Pride is regarding oneself as the most important person around. It is the belief that feeling loved and significant depends on being above others. It may manifest either in *too high* or *too low* self-esteem; either way it is an obsession with one's own value.

Humility, by contrast, is finding one's worth so securely in God's unearned favor that one is not very concerned about self-esteem at all. A humble person doesn't put himself down, avoid compliments, or play the martyr. His status compared to others doesn't matter much to him because his value in God's eyes is a settled issue.

Some biblical principles:

1) **Being proud (self-centered arrogance) is foolish:**

James 4:6 "... God **opposes the proud** but gives grace to the humble" (a paraphrase of Proverbs 3:34; see also I Peter 5:5-6)

11:2 "When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom"

13:10 "Pride only brings quarrels, but wisdom is found in those who take advice"

16:18 "Pride goes before destruction; a haughty spirit before a fall"

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

21:4 "Haughty eyes and a proud heart, the lamp of the wicked, are sin!"

29:23 "A man's pride brings him low, but a man of lowly spirit gains honor"

Jesus said in Matthew 23:12 "For **whoever exalts himself will be humbled**, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted"

God hates pride/haughtiness (Proverbs 6:16-19; 8:13; 16:5)

Bad examples of the Proud:

Uzziah (2 Chron 26:16-18)

Herod (Acts 12:21-23)

Hezekiah (2 Chron 32:24-26)

Haman (book of Esther)

Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 4:28-30)

Belshazzar (Daniel 5:22-30)

Lucifer (Satan) (Isa 14:12-15)

2) **Being humble is wise:**

James 4:6 “... God opposes the proud but **gives grace to the humble**” (a paraphrase of Proverbs 3:34; see also I Peter 5:5-6)

Jesus said in Matthew 23:12 “For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and **whoever humbles himself will be exalted**”

11:2 “When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom”

15:31 “He who listens to a life-giving rebuke will be at home among the wise”

18:12 “Before his downfall a man’s heart is proud, but humility comes before honor”

22:4 “Humility and the fear of the Lord bring wealth and honor and life”

25:27 “It is not good to eat too much honey, nor is it honorable to seek one’s own honor”

27:2 “Let praise you, and not your own mouth; someone else, and not your own lips”

28:13 “He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy”

29:23 “A man’s pride brings him low, but a man of lowly spirit gains honor”

God honors humility of His collective people (II Chron 7:14)

Good examples of the Humble:

David (2 Samuel 7:18-22)

Paul (I Timothy 1:15-16)

Ultimate example = Jesus Christ (Matthew 11:29; Phil 2:3-11)