

Week of January 6, 2008

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Monday

Luke 14:5 And He said to them, "Which one of you shall have a son or an ox fall into a well, and will not immediately pull him out on a Sabbath day?"

One of pride's plans is to entice us to set standards for others that we ourselves do not meet. Only a destruction of our pride will allow us to see that we are doing so. The religious leaders of Jesus' day condemned Him for His Sabbath healing but would have *without hesitation* attended to their own need. It was pride that had captured them and it is pride that captures us. Ask God to help you see past pride's blinders. Asking Him to heal you of pride's blindness. Ask Him to reveal how *your pride* is affecting your marriage, relationships, church.

Tuesday

Eph. 4:22 in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old man, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit.

Seeking the place of honor is 'old man' stuff. It is of the base nature arising from sin. Jesus warned the Disciples of it and the scripture continually seeks to challenge such pride with warnings and instruction: "The last shall be first and the first last" and "let him who is the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as the servant." The assault of pride is life long and our vigilance must be never ending. Remember, "Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before stumbling."

Wednesday

Eph. 5:21 and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.

Pride can ruin a home and a marriage. "Wives honor and submit to your husband" goes against every pride tickled bone in the body. "Husbands love as the Lord loves and submit" to your wife goes against every macho drop of blood pumped through a man's veins. "Do not exasperate your children" is a proud parent's least favorite verse. Yet these are the commands of the Lord and the secret to victorious family life. Fighting pride in the home is a call of God. Surely it is better than fighting one another.

Thursday

Heb. 13:17 Obey your leaders, and submit to them; for they keep watch over your souls, as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.

Wouldn't it be great if church were a 'Pride Free Zone'? But alas it is not. Religion has always been a productive place for growing and exhibiting pride. Pray that neither your pride (nor mine) will stand in God's way for His church and ministry. Ask Him to help you be biblical in your expectations and service.

Friday

Eph. 6:5 Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh...

Col. 4:1 Masters, grant to your slaves justice and fairness, knowing that you too have a Master in heaven.

Pride in the work place is a indicator of the carnal life. Submitting to authority is always a struggle of pride. Yet God clearly instructs us to submit to our employers (unless legally and morally our biblical standards are compromised). And employers and supervisors, the call is more difficult still. In such places of responsibility God supervises the supervisor and calls you to give respect, honor, proper wages, and concern to those who work under your supervision. Christianity does not stop at the exit of the church. No, it begins there!