
Towards a Virtuous Life

Towards Humility, Away from the Deadly Sin of Pride

Philippians 2:1-16 (NIRV) | Ash Wednesday, March 2, 2022

Rev. Abi Foerster

Core Questions: How has our inner life gotten so far removed from God's plan for our lives? Why are we so desperate?

Are you cheerful because you belong to Christ? Does his love comfort you? Is the Holy Spirit your companion? Has Christ been gentle and loving toward you? Then make my joy complete by agreeing with each other. Have the same love. Be one in spirit and purpose. (v. 1-2)

THE SIN OF PRIDE

Don't do anything only to get ahead. Don't do it because you are proud. Instead, be free of pride. Think of others as better than yourselves. (v. 3)

Pride Defined: An excessive belief in one's own abilities that interferes with our recognition of the grace of God.

Symptom #1: We do not see _____ to be God.

"I tell you, the tax collector went home accepted by God. But not the Pharisee. Everyone who lifts himself up will be brought down. And anyone who is brought down will be lifted up." (Luke 18:14)

Symptom #2: Each challenge to our pride _____ to improve our illusion.

Our Antidote to Pride:

1) Be grateful to anyone and everyone.

None of you should look out just for your own good. You should also look out for the good of others. (v. 4)

2) Pray for forgiveness from God for the sin of pride.

I could have become proud of myself because of the amazing and wonderful things God has shown me. So I was given a problem that caused pain in my body....Three times I begged the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, "My grace is all you need. My power is strongest when you are weak." (2 Cor. 12:7-9)

3) Ask God for a spirit of humility.

You should think in the same way Christ Jesus does. In his very nature he was God. But he did not think that being equal with God was something he should hold on to. Instead, he made himself nothing. He took on the very nature of a servant. He was made in human form. He appeared as a man. He came down to the lowest level. (v. 5-8)