

Manifestations of Pride¹

Definition of Pride: *The mindset of self (a master's mindset rather than that of a servant): a focus on self and the service of self, a pursuit of self-recognition and self-exaltation and a desire to control and use all things for self.*

Please rate the following statements using the following scale:

- 0 – You have never seen this in my life.
- 1 – You have seen this in my life **sometimes**.
- 2 – You have seen this more than sometimes.

_____ **Complaining against or passing judgment on God.** A proud person in a difficult situation thinks, “Look what God has done to *me after all* I have done *for Him*” (Numbers 14:1-4, 9, 11; Romans 9:20). Perhaps we do this passively, in the form of apathy as well.

_____ **A lack of gratitude in general.** Proud people usually think they deserve what is good. The result is, they see no reason to be thankful for what they receive. As a matter of fact, they may even complain because they think they deserve better. They tend to be critical, complaining and discontent. The proud person is not in the practice of being thankful toward God or others (2 Chronicles 32:25; Rom 1:21).

_____ **Anger.** A proud person is often an angry person. One's anger can include outburst of anger, withdrawing, pouting, or frustration. Another word for anger is moodiness. An angry look has been called “silent murder.” People are often afraid of you (walk on “eggshells” around you). A person most often becomes angry because his “rights” or expectations are not being met (Matthew 20:1-16).

_____ **Seeing yourself as better than others.** A proud person is usually on top looking down on others. He might compare others to himself in his strengths and overlook his weaknesses. He gets easily disgusted and has little tolerance for differences (Luke 7:36-50).

_____ **Having an inflated view of your importance, gifts, and abilities.** Many proud people have a very wrong perception of themselves. They are a legend (or Cinderella) in their own mind, but what they really need is a loving dose of reality. They need to hear, “What do you have that God didn't give you?” (1 Corinthians 4:7)

¹ Taken from, *From Pride to Humility*, Bemidji, Minnesota: Focus Publishers, 2000. Those desiring to obtain copies for use in ministry can be obtained by contacting them directly. 1-800-91-FOCUS

_____ ***Being focused on the lack of your gifts and abilities.*** Some proud people may not come across proud at all because they are always down on themselves. This is still evidence of pride because one is focused on self and wants self to be elevated or significant. Having a “woe is me” attitude is self-pity, which is pride (1 Corinthians 12:14-25).

_____ ***Perfectionism.*** People who strive for everything to be perfect often do so for recognition. They may do it so they can feel good about themselves. Whatever the reason, this behavior is very self-serving and proud. The basic problem is making things that are less important more important (Matthew 23:24-28).

_____ ***Talking too much.*** Proud people who talk too much often do it because they think that what they have to say is more important than what anyone else has to say. When there are many words, sin is generally unavoidable (Proverbs 10:19).

_____ ***Talking too much about yourself.*** A person who is proud may center on themselves in conversation. Sharing personal accomplishments and good personal qualities with others can be bragging or boasting (Proverbs 27:2; Galatians 6:3).

_____ ***Seeking independence or control.*** Some proud people find it extremely difficult to work under someone else or to submit to an authority. They have to be their own boss. They might say, “I don’t need anyone” or “I don’t need accountability for my faith and doctrine.” They are often rigid, stubborn, headstrong, unapproachable, unwinsome and intimidating. They only have “yes” people around them – often afraid of honest feedback. They may also say, “It’s my way or not” (1 Corinthians 1:10-13; Ephesians 5:21).

_____ ***Being consumed with what others think.*** Some proud people are too concerned about the opinion of others. Many of their decisions are based on what others might think. Some are in a continual pursuit of gaining the approval and esteem of others. Focusing on what others think of you or trying to impress or just be on a peer level with others is being a man-pleaser rather than a God-pleaser (Galatians 1:10).

_____ ***Being discouraged, devastated or angered by criticism.*** Proud people usually struggle a great deal with criticism. Such people cannot bear (or are perpetually discouraged) that they are not perfect or have weaknesses because they cannot accept who they really are (Proverbs 13:1).

_____ ***Being unteachable and unapproachable.*** Many proud individuals think they know it all and act superior. They can’t seem to learn anything from someone else. They respect no one, are stubborn and headstrong (Proverbs 19:20; John 8:13-34).

_____ ***Being sarcastic, hurtful, or degrading.*** Proud people can be very unkind people. Those who belittle other people usually want to raise themselves up above

others. Very often this can be quite cleverly done through jesting. They may excuse themselves by saying, “That’s just the way I am. That’s my personality” (Proverbs 12:18, 23).

_____ ***A lack of service.*** Proud people may not serve because they are not thinking of others, or because they want to be coaxed to serve and don’t want to continue if there is no praise. Needing recognition is a sure sign of the wrong motives in service (Galatians 5:13; Ephesians 2:10).

_____ ***A lack of compassion.*** A person who is proud is rarely concerned for others and their concerns. He cannot see beyond his own desires (Matthew 5:7; 18:23-35).

_____ ***Being defensive or blame shifting.*** You will often hear a proud person say, “Are you saying it’s *my* fault?” or “Well, what about you?” He tries to explain away or justify his sin (or being wrong about anything) (Genesis 3:12-13; Proverbs 12:1).

_____ ***A lack of admitting when you are wrong.*** A proud person will make a great many excuses such as “I was tired” or “I was having a bad day” (Proverbs 10:17).

_____ ***A lack of asking forgiveness.*** Proud people rarely admit their sin or ask for forgiveness of others. They either cannot see their sin because they are blinded by their pride, or they just can’t seem to humble themselves before someone else and ask forgiveness (Matthew 5:23-24).

_____ ***Resisting authority or being disrespectful.*** A proud person may detest being told what to do. We might say he or she has a submission problem. What he or she actually has, however, is a pride problem. It is simply displaying itself in a lack of submission (1 Peter 2:13-17).

_____ ***Voicing preferences or opinions when not asked.*** A proud person might not be able to keep his preferences or opinions to himself. He will offer it when it is not asked for. These preferences are usually voiced without consideration for others (Philippians 2:1-4).

_____ ***Minimizing your own sin and shortcomings.*** Proud people typically believe that their sin is no big deal. They think they have a little sin and others have a great deal of it (Matthew 7:3-5).

_____ ***Maximizing others’ sin and shortcomings.*** To the proud person, other people are the problem. They may magnify or bring attention to the sin of others by gossiping about the other’s sin (Matthew 7:3-5; Luke 18:9-14).

_____ ***Being impatient or irritable with others.*** A proud person might be angry with other people because they are concerned that their own schedule or plans are being ruined. They are often inflexible on preference issues (Ephesians 4:31-32).

_____ ***Being jealous or envious.*** Often when they do not enjoy the same benefits, proud people have a hard time being glad for others' successes or blessings. They are discontented when their lot is not as favorable as another's (1 Corinthians 13:4).

_____ ***Using others.*** The proud person usually views others in terms of what those people can do for *him* and *his* interests. His focus is not on ministering to others. Everything is *for him* and *about him* (Matthew 7:12; Philippians 2:3-4).

_____ ***Being deceitful (pretending to be perfect) by covering up sins, faults, and mistakes.*** Some proud people will do just about anything in order for others not to find out negative things about them (Proverbs 11:3; 28:13)

_____ ***Using attention-getting tactics.*** Proud people may try to draw attention to themselves through dress, bizarre behavior, being rebellious, always talking about their problems, etc. (1 Peter 3:3-4)

_____ ***Not having close relationship.*** Proud people often have no use for close relationships, thinking that the trouble outweighs the benefits. They may see themselves as so self-sufficient that they do not need other people. If they are into self-pity, they might be fearful and intimidated for intimacy in relationships (Proverbs 18:1-2; Hebrews 10:24-25).