

Gospel-Centered Living #8 Humility

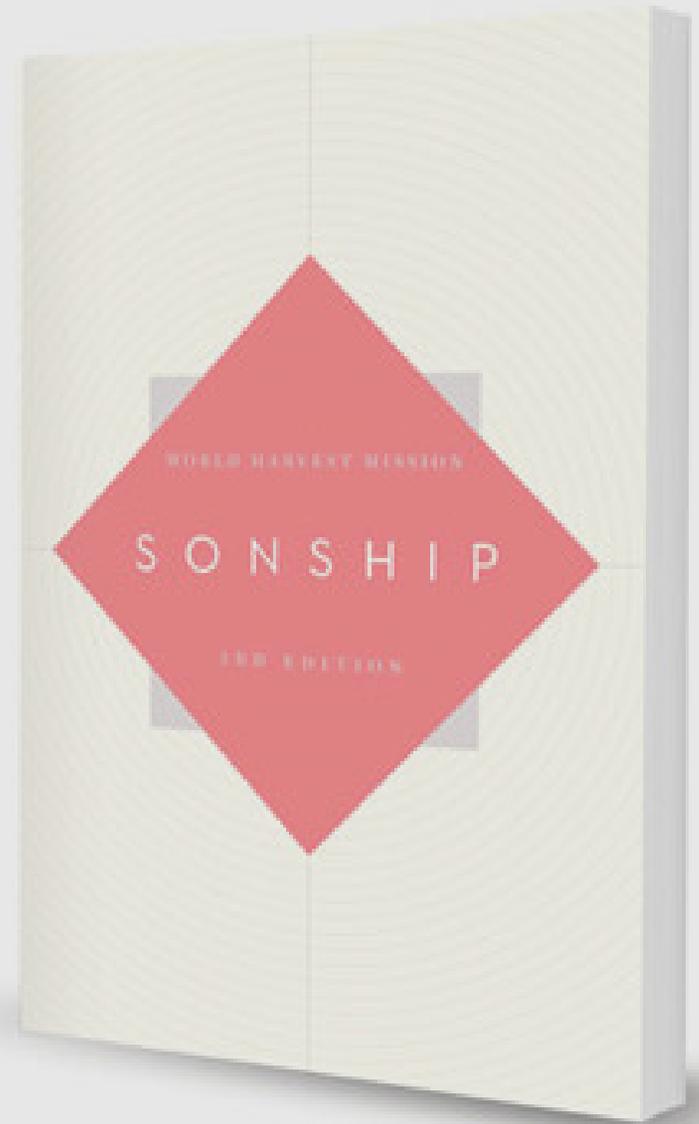
James 3-4

What Am I?

“There is one vice of which no man in the world is free; which every one in the world loathes when he sees it in someone else; and of which hardly any people, except Christians, ever imagine that they are guilty themselves... And at the same time I have very seldom met anyone, who was not a Christian, who showed the slightest mercy to it in others. There is no fault which makes a man more unpopular, and no fault which we are more unconscious of in ourselves. And the more we have it ourselves, the more we dislike it in others.” ~ C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*, p.108ff.

From
Pride
to
Humility
A Biblical Perspective
Stuart Scott

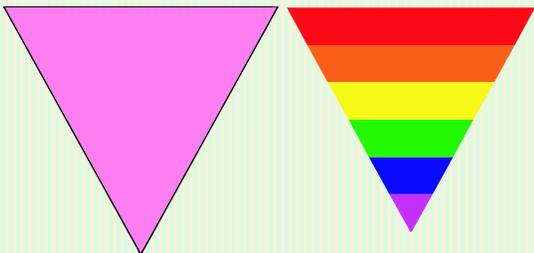
Based on
Sonship,
chapter 11,
Stuart Scott's
booklet,
*From Pride to
Humility*
& C.S. Lewis'
*Mere
Christianity*



The World Says Pride is a Good thing

- 1 A feeling of deep pleasure or satisfaction derived from one's own achievements, the achievements of one's close associates, or from qualities or possessions that are widely admired:

- OxfordDictionaries.com (And Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English) have moved what was historically a secondary meaning to the #1 meaning.
- #1 images that appear in a search for “pride” in Microsoft Clip Art and Google:



The Problem with Pride: Proverbs NKJV

3:34 Surely He [God] **scorns** the scornful, But gives grace to the humble.

6:17 [The first thing that **God hates** is] A proud look [+ six more things]

11:2 When pride comes, then comes **shame**; But with the humble is wisdom.

13:10 By pride comes nothing but **strife**... (cf. 28:25)

15:25 The LORD will **destroy** the house of the proud...

16:5 Everyone proud in heart is an **abomination** to the LORD; Though they join forces, none will go **unpunished**.

16:18-19 Pride goes before **destruction**, And a haughty spirit before a **fall**.
Better to be of a humble spirit with the lowly, Than to divide the spoil with the proud.

21:4 A haughty look, a proud heart, And the plowing of the wicked are **sin**.

29:23 A man's pride will **bring him low**, But the humble in spirit will retain honor.

What Humility Looks Like (Scott)

- Trusts God's character, even in trials
- Doesn't question or judge God
- Focuses on Christ throughout the day
- Biblical praying - & lots of it.
- Overwhelmed with God's undeserved grace
- Thankful and grateful toward others.
- Gentle and patient.
- Sees self as no better than others.
- Accurate view of gifts and abilities – doesn't exaggerate or pity self.
- Good listener – genuine interest
- Speaks well of others, not negatively.
- Gladly submissive to authority.
- Puts others first.
- Thankful for criticism or reproof.
- Teachable – has many mentors
- Always build up others.
- Servant-hearted
- Quick to admit fault
- Quick to grant & ask for forgiveness
- Repents of sin as a way of life.
- Minimizes others' sins/shortcomings
- Genuinely glad for others' blessing
- Honest about problems – asks for help and accountability
- Has many close friends – love is reciprocated.

Observations on Pride: Jack Miller

- What causes your “surface sins”? (Binging, Anxiety, Rage, Irritability, Lust, Flirting, Laziness, Bitterness, Drug dependency, Complaining, Gossip, Cutdowns, Cheating, Workaholism, Overspending...)
- Essentially **unbelief**.
- “In contrast to idols, the gospel really does give us what it promises – intimacy, pleasure, joy, reputation, love, peace.” ~*Sonship*, p.160
- Self-pity:
 - It's easier to demand better treatment than to repent.
 - It's easier to believe that God has not been good to us than to believe that we are getting better than we deserve from God.
 - Self-pity is a sneaky form of pride.
 - The Gospel is truly **GOOD NEWS**



Observations on Pride: C.S. Lewis

- “Pride is essentially **competitive**... Pride gets no pleasure out of having something, only out of having more of it than the next man...”
- The incomparable nature of the God of the Bible is a huge threat to pride. “As long as you are proud you cannot know God.”
- “Pride always means **enmity** – it is enmity.” It will keep you in continual conflict with other people and with God.
- “The devil... Is perfectly content to see you becoming hasty and brave and self-controlled provided, all the time, he is setting up on you the Dictatorship of Pride... [which] eats up the very possibility of love, or contentment, or even common sense...”
- Thus pride and religiosity are close partners, but not pride and true Christianity.



Observations on Pride: Stuart Scott

Pride is essentially self-centeredness.

ATTITUDE	PRIDE	HUMILITY
Outlook:	Epidemic	Endangered
Terms:	High, Lifted Up, Blind	Low, Bowed Down, Sober
Mindset: (attitude of)	Self: The Master	Jesus Christ: The Servant
Source of Good:	From Me	From God
Means of Good:	By/Through Me	By/Through God
Goal of Good:	To Me	To God
Honor:	Self-Imposed	God-Bestowed
Confidence:	Self-Sufficient	Christ-Sufficient
Others:	Conditional/Trading Affection (looked down upon)	Unconditional/Sacrificial (preferred) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salvation • Sanctification

ANTHROPOCENTRIC "THE MASTER'S MINDSET" = High & Blinded

seeking to
'domesticate' God

He is not
- Selective Obedience

a god of my making
- False Worship

"FROM"
ME

"BY"
ME

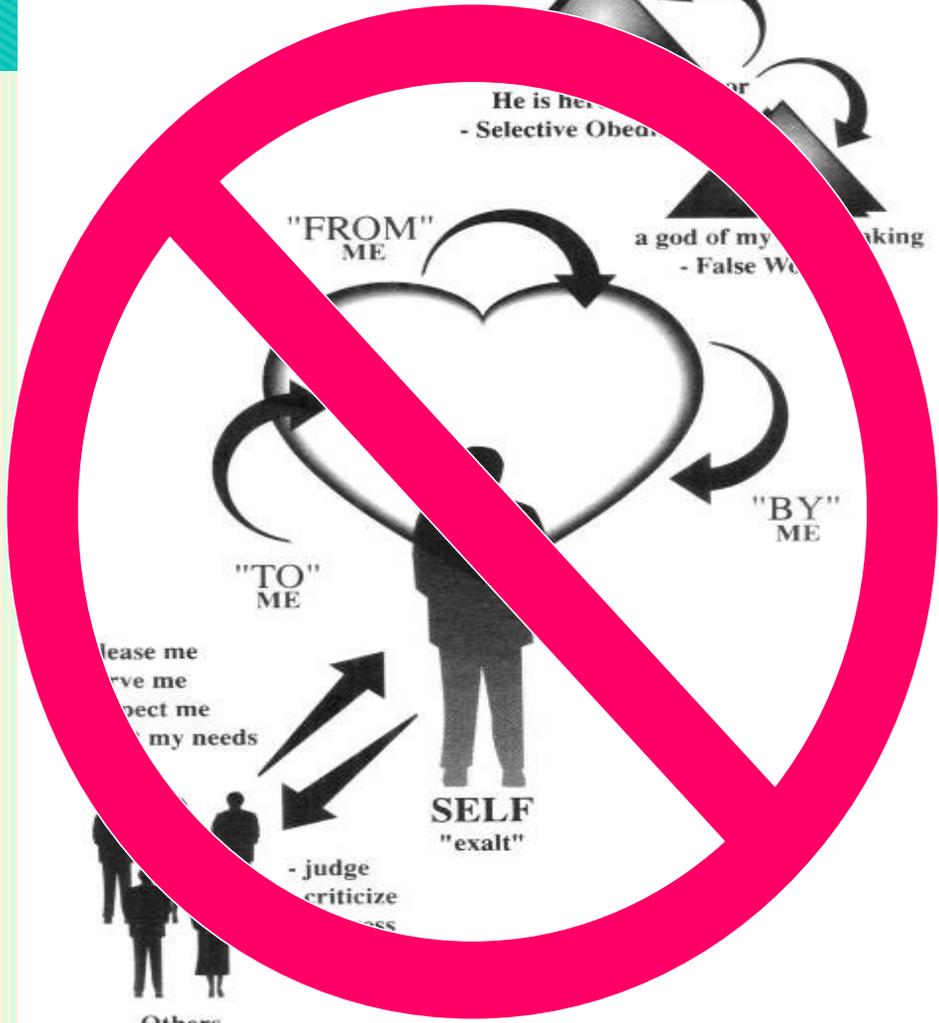
"TO"
ME

Please me
Serve me
Respect me
Meet my needs

SELF
"exalt"

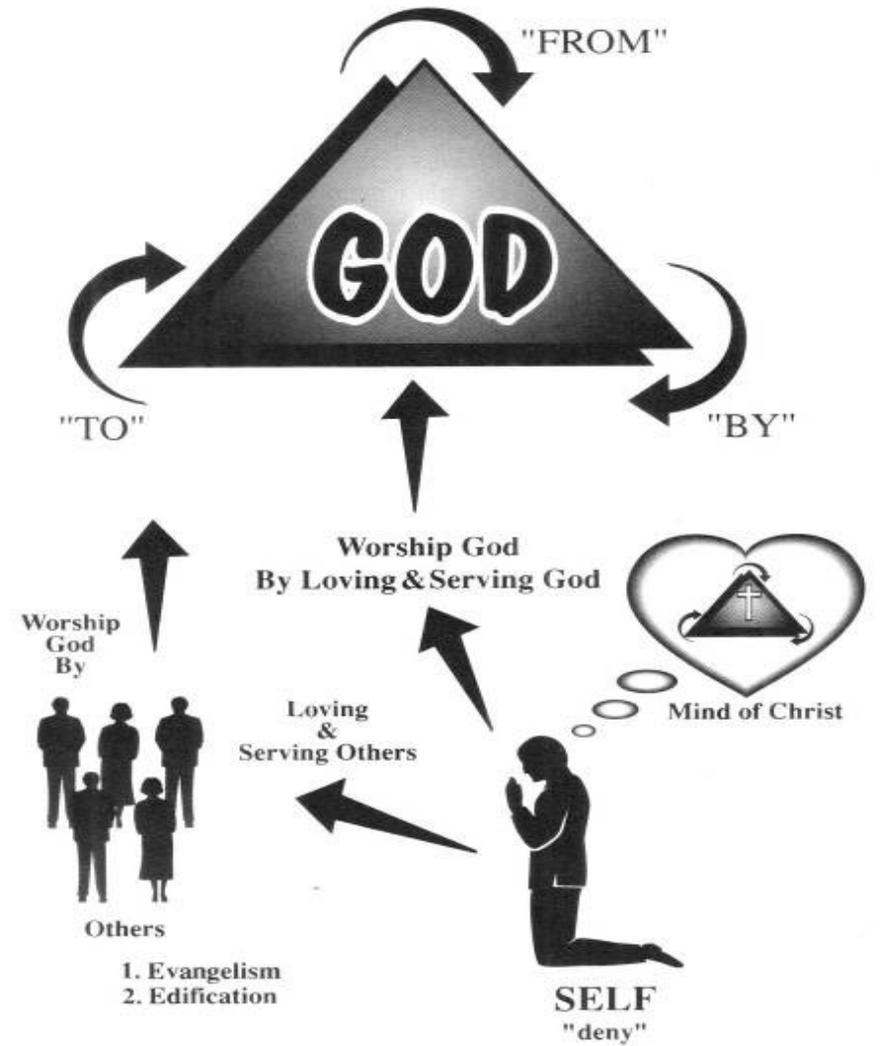
- judge
- criticize
- oppress

Others



THEOCENTRIC

"the SERVANT'S MINDSET" = Low & Sober-Minded



SUMMARY: Pride is...



Unbelief (Miller)

Prov. 28:25 “He who is of a proud heart stirs up strife, But he who trusts in the LORD will be prospered.”

Competition (Lewis)

Prov. 13:10 “By pride comes nothing but strife...”

Selfishness (Scott)

Philippians 2:3-4 “Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves”

Unbelief, Enmity & Selfishness in James 3:16 - 4:16 NKJV

For where envy and **self-seeking** exist, **confusion** and every evil thing are there, but the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without **hypocrisy**... Where do **wars and fights** come from among you? Do *they* not come from your desires for **pleasure** that war in your members? You **lust** and do not have. You murder and **cov-
et** and cannot obtain... Yet you do not have because you **do not ask**. You ask and do not receive, because you **ask amiss**, that you may spend *it* on your pleasures ... Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an **enemy** of God... "The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously"? But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "**GOD RESISTS THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.**" Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse *your* hands, you sinners; and purify *your* hearts, you double-minded. Lament & mourn and weep! Let your **laughter** be turned to mourning... Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up. Do not **speak evil of [judge]** one another, brethren... Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow **we will** go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit..." Instead you *ought* to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that."

How to Fight Pride

(James 3-4)

BELIEVE:

- “The wisdom that comes from above is ... without hypocrisy ...”
- “You do not have because you do not ask...”
- “Submit to God... Draw near to God...”
- “Purify your hearts you double-minded...”

UNIFY:

- “Wisdom from above is pure, peaceable, gentle, yielding, full of mercy...”
- “The Spirit dwelling in us yearns jealously.”
- “Submit to God; resist the devil...”
- “Do not speak evil of one another...”

REPENT:

- “Cleanse your hands you sinners...”
- “Mourn and weep – laughter to mourning...”
- “Submit to God... Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord...”
- “If the Lord wills...”

