

## SE7EN: Week 1: Overcoming Pride

### Pastor Peter Smith, 06-21-15

**[Intro]** Remember funhouse mirrors? Carnival, State Fair? They exaggerate things you see. Things that are normal get stretched so it doesn't look right, it doesn't look like it should.

This is a good way to think about sin. *What does sin do? It exaggerates something good. For example, we are looking at the sin of pride today. Pride takes something good, a healthy self-esteem and stretches it way too far. We go from "I am made in the image of God!" to: "Hey everybody, look at me...how beautiful I am. I am sooooo good!" "Life is all about me"*

**Our series for the next few weeks is how to finish well. How to overcome some regular problems areas in life called sin. God wants us to have abundant life, but sin can mess us up! So we are going to learn how deal with some sin. Listen to what God says in Heb. 12:**

*"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge cloud of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily hinders our progress. And let us run with endurance the race that God has set before us."*

#### **1. Understand the primary source of all my sins.**

**(Understand where all sin begins: inside my heart)**

- **Jesus said we have to look into our hearts.** In fact, look in your notes.

*"For from within, out of a person's heart, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, wickedness, deceit, lustful desires, envy, slander, pride, and foolishness."*

*— Mark 7:21-22*

Mark 7:21 says, "For from within" underline that phrase, "out of a person's heart". Where do all these things come from? From within, out of a person's heart comes all of these things that Jesus then lists off. It's a big list of sin, but it's not the *Deadly Ones*!.

#### **So: do you know what the Seven Deadly Sins are? (background)**

##### **History:**

This list came about in the 6<sup>th</sup> century. There are other lists in the Bible—the 10 Commandments, the Apostle Paul had a couple of lists,

and the one we just read from Jesus. This list came about when Pope Gregory the Great reduced all of the list of sins to seven. The thought is this: all our sins come from this list. If love is the most important thing in our life, what sin goes against it the most? Pride. And the others are a step down from that. So this became the list of the Seven Deadly Sins. **Important to note:** All sin is bad and results in death, but Jesus died to forgive all of our sins and to bring us to God!

Today we are going to focus on the first one, which is pride. Notice in your list

you see the corresponding virtue. Our goal should in this series is to replace with sin with God's solutions. So if we want to remove Pride from our life then we want to **replace it with humility.**

- If not replacement it will come back
- Like a diet: easy to lose 10 or 15 lbs, but without discipline the lbs come back!
- To be successful, you have to replace lifestyle choices with healthy ones
- Same with Pride, Envy and the rest of the list

**Pride defined: excessive belief in me / in one's own abilities.**

- **Healthy Esteem good**
- **Pride exaggerates it.**
- **Excessive belief...**A big head...like the mirror. And it leads to bad stuff in our lives.

**Now, pride occurs when I think that I am better than someone else:**

- I think I have all the answers
- I don't need God in my life
- I put other people's needs behind my own needs
- I act arrogant, calling attention to me: "Hey, look at what I did!!!"

**So how do we deal with our pride? Don't just say I know where it begins, but let God know you have a problem with Pride. That's the 2<sup>nd</sup> step:**

**2. Acknowledge my problem with pride.**

To acknowledge / admit / confess all mean the same thing. We need to tell God “I have this problem! ME!”

- No-one else to blame...not another person, the devil
- In fact, Pride is the original sin of the devil. We get to his place: “I don’t need God” “I’m competent”
- What happened to the devil? He got whooped by God over pride! Pride exaggerates something good and **causes problems**.

**Here are some problems with Pride. Look in your notes at Proverbs:**

**Proverbs 11:2, “Pride leads to” what? Disgrace.**

Ever seen this before? People think they are something they aren’t and they bring disgrace to their family and friends?

**Proverbs 13:10, “Pride leads to” what? Conflict.**

In a conflict, who is right and who is wrong? I’m always right!!!! Pride doesn’t let us say “I’m sorry” or “Forgive me”

**Prov. 16:18, “Pride goes before” what? Destruction**

**And Prov. 29:23, “Pride ends in humiliation.”** It does. So what’s the answer? Humility. Humility brings honor. How do we deal with our pride?

**How we fix Pride (or any sin): It starts with confession.**

Look at I John 1:9. It says, “**But if we confess**”, circle those words. “**If we confess our sins to Him, He is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong.**”

**NOTE:** Confession is NOT saying “I’m sorry” to God but “to agree with”. It’s agreeing that God is right.

- God I do have pride!
- God, I get a big head sometimes
- God, sometimes I want my own way

When we agree with what God says (it's sin, it's not good for us) he begins to erase it from our lives, decreasing it's power in us. This brings us to step 3 in overcoming pride: to overcome pride I need to

### 3. Humble myself before God.

- To overcome Pride we need to be humble before God. Every day.
- When we lower our view of ourselves like this, God gives us strength; if we don't he resists or opposes us

Look at James 4:6-7. "God opposes". Anybody want God opposing you? I don't.

"God opposes the proud and gives grace, strength, insight, wisdom, grace to the humble. Submit yourselves then to God."

Set a goal today in the form of a prayer:

"God, decrease my pride and increase my humility"

### 12 Actions of Humility

- Highlight a few
- #2: Everyday this week, pray like Jesus: "Father, not my will, but Yours be done"
- #7: get involved outside your home this week
- #10: holdback your wit this week-act of strength!