

# Proverbs Pt. 4

Pastor James Foley – Shared Sunday, August 22, 2021

---

## SUMMATIONS

Thank you for joining us today! Whether you are here in person or watching via the livestream, you are most welcome. Please have a Bible at the ready and be prepared to take some notes. We have much to cover in a relatively short amount of time.

## SETTING THE STAGE

**FYI** – We are in the midst of an extended summer series on the Book of Proverbs. In fact, today is the fourth of approximately eight total lessons. Please feel free to review previous installments online, as I am not going to have time this morning to reaffirm the broad foundation we have laid in recent weeks. I will simply note that...

**NOTE 1** – The Book of Proverbs offers wisdom (i.e., instruction) on an array of topics related to daily life and living. Those who desire insight into how to live well before the Lord and amongst men, properly discerning good from evil, do well to consider this ancient work of biblical literature.

**NOTE 2** – It would be accurate to say that the Book of Proverbs serves as a compilation of individual proverbs that address nearly every facet of life (e.g., pride v. humility, anger v. self-control, hatred v. compassion, poverty v. wealth, generosity v. greed, hard work v. laziness, reputation and legacy, marriage and parenthood, friendship, submission to gov. authority, our words, etc.).

**NOTE 3** – Thus said, I would like to take several weeks to analyze the wisdom the Book of Proverbs offers concerning a selection of these areas. This morning we will begin by addressing what this work reveals concerning pride v. humility. Let us begin...

## PRIDE (C. S. LEWIS PT. 1)

C. S. Lewis offers the following insight regarding pride in his classic work *Mere Christianity*...

**QUOTE** – There is one vice of which no man in the world is free; which everyone in the world loathes when he sees it in someone else; and of which hardly any people, except Christians, ever imagined they are guilty themselves. I have heard people admit that they are bad-tempered, or that they cannot keep their head about girls or drink, or even that they are cowards. I do not think I have ever heard anyone who is not a Christian accuse himself of this vice. 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 in ourselves, the more we dislike it in others. The vice I am talking about is Pride or Self-Conceit. . . . It was through Pride that the devil became the devil: Pride leads to every other vice: it is the complete anti-God state of mind.

## PRIDE (C. S. LEWIS PT. 2)

Let us take a moment to dissect and analyze what C. S. Lewis communicates in this quotation...

**NOTE 1** – Firstly, Lewis notes that pride is something that everyone struggles with. Specifically, pride is the “vice of which no man in the world is free.” Each of us, fallen or redeemed, battles against the operation and the sinister spiritual influence of pride.

**NOTE 2** – Secondly, everyone hates the pride of others. Pride is that condition “which everyone in the world loathes when he sees it in someone else.” No one likes a braggart, and no one enjoys the company of one who full of themselves. That being said...

**NOTE 3** – Thirdly, pride makes a person detestable and noxious. To quote Lewis, “There is no fault which makes a man more unpopular.” As the adage states, “Pride is the only disease of the soul that makes everyone sick but the one who has it.”

**NOTE 4** – Fourthly, Lewis notes that people are often blind to their pride! Pride is that vice “which everyone in the world loathes when he sees it in someone else; and of which hardly any people . . . ever imagine they are guilty themselves.”

**NOTE 5** – Fifthly, pride lies at the root of every other sin. To quote Lewis once again, “Pride leads to every other vice.” Name a sin—any and all sin—and you will see it is inherently connected to and the overflow of pride. Hence...

**NOTE 6** – Lewis ends with the conclusion: “Pride is an anti-God condition of the heart or state of mind” that is so corrupting it precipitated the fall of Satan (cf. Isa. 14): “It was through Pride that the devil became the devil.”

**KEY** – We do well to understand what the Bible says concerning pride. To begin...

### PRIDE DEFINED

#### Q. What is pride?

**A.** Pride is the improper and excessive valuation of oneself (i.e., also known as arrogance or conceit).

**NOTE 1** – In fact, the underlying Hebrew and Greek terms for pride refer to being “high or exalted” in attitude. Pride is a spirit of self-exaltation and self-worship that fuels the belief that we do not need God or His ways; that we need not trust in Him but in ourselves. Moreover, pride fuels the belief that we are better than others in terms of intrinsic value or moral worth. Thus said...

**NOTE 2** – A proud person is marked by an excessive sense of self (i.e., walking in arrogance and conceit). Such a one is self-exalting, self-worshipping and, therefore, self-absorbed. They are characterized by the mindset that they are above any need from the Lord and/or His Word, placing full faith in themselves alone. Lastly, it is their habit to elevate themselves above their peers.

**KEY** – Lewis was correct in his conclusion that pride is an “anti-God state of mind” (i.e., being entirely contrary)

## PRIDE – THE RESPONSE OF THE LORD

**Q. What is the posture of God toward pride (i.e., and to those given to this sinful condition)?**

**A.** The Book of Proverbs has much to say concerning God’s posture toward pride and the proud...

**Proverbs 8:12–13 (NIV, Emphasis Mine)**

12 “I, wisdom, dwell together with prudence;  
 I possess knowledge and discretion.  
 13 To fear the Lord is to hate evil;  
 I **hate** pride and arrogance,  
 evil behavior and perverse speech.”

**KEY** – Herein wisdom—personified as a woman and reflective of the heart of God—reveals a hatred for pride and arrogance. Since this is something that He despises and rejects, it is also something He will inevitably punish if unchecked. Pride brings about divine penalty and disfavor...

**Proverbs 3:33–35**

33 The Lord’s curse is on the house of the wicked,  
 but he blesses the home of the righteous.  
 34 He mocks proud mockers  
 but shows favor to the humble and oppressed.  
 35 The wise inherit honor,  
 but fools get only shame.

**KEY** – Herein we see the Lord promises to mock those who mock Him in a spirit of pride. In fact, He ridicules the one who ridicules Him, as they believe they can live apart from Him and His ways. I am reminded of two related passages of Scripture...

**Psalms 2:1–4**

1 Why do the nations conspire  
 and the peoples plot in vain?  
 2 The kings of the earth rise up  
 and the rulers band together  
 against the Lord and against his anointed, saying,  
 3 “Let us break their chains  
 and throw off their shackles.”  
 4 The One enthroned in heaven laughs;  
 the Lord scoffs at them.

**Galatians 6:7**

7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.

**NOTE** – This leads to another passage in the Book of Proverbs re: God’s response toward pride...

**Proverbs 16:5**

5 The Lord detests all the proud of heart.  
Be sure of this: They will not go unpunished.

**KEY** – God sets Himself in opposition to the proud. What a frightening, yet scriptural, proposition...

**James 4:6b–7a**

6 . . . “God opposes the proud  
but shows favor to the humble.”

7 Submit yourselves, then, to God.

## **PRIDE – THE CORRESPONDING CONSEQUENCE PT. 1**

### **Q. What are the potential consequences of pride?**

#### **A1. SHAME OR HUMILIATION...**

**Proverbs 11:2**

2 When pride comes, then comes disgrace,  
but with humility comes wisdom.

**KEY** – Pride opens the door for disgrace. This is something that Christ Himself touched upon...

**Luke 14:7–11**

7 When he noticed how the guests picked the places of honor at the table, he told them this parable: 8 “When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited. 9 If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, ‘Give this person your seat.’ Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place. 10 But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, ‘Friend, move up to a better place.’ Then you will be honored in the presence of all the other guests. 11 For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

#### **A2. QUARRELS AND CONFLICT**

**Proverbs 13:10**

10 Where there is strife [i.e., conflicts and quarrels], there is pride,  
but wisdom is found in those who take advice.

**KEY** – The arrogant experience needless interpersonal strife. Show me a proud ind. and I will show you drama!

**Q1. Have you ever tried to correct an arrogant man or woman? DRAMA**

**Q2. Have you ever had a friend who thought they were always right? DRAMA**

**Q3. Have you ever seen a marriage where “both” parties are conceited? DRAMA**

**Q4. Have you ever seen a family where each party is self-absorbed? DRAMA**

**Q5. Have you ever worked with or for a person given to pride? DRAMA**

### A3. DESTRUCTION...

**KEY** – The idea of destruction or ruin is a blanket term signifying some form of divine punishment and/or retribution for the sin of pride. This theme runs throughout the Book of Proverbs. Please allow me to give you the following (small) sampling...

#### **Proverbs 15:25**

25 The Lord tears down the house of the proud,  
but he sets the widow's boundary stones in place.

#### **Proverbs 18:12**

12 Before a downfall the heart is haughty,  
but humility comes before honor.

#### **Proverbs 16:18**

18 Pride goes before destruction,  
a haughty spirit before a fall.

**QUOTE** – During the Battle of the Wilderness in the Civil War, Union general John Sedgwick was inspecting his troops. At one point he came to a parapet, over which he gazed out in the direction of the enemy. His officers suggested that this was unwise and perhaps he ought to duck while passing the parapet. "Nonsense," snapped the general. "They couldn't hit an elephant at this distance!" A moment later Sedgwick fell to the ground, fatally wounded.

## **PRIDE – THE CORRESPONDING CONSEQUENCE PT. 2**

**KEY** – Of course, Christ taught at length concerning the ultimate cost and consequence of pride...

#### **Matthew 7:24–27**

24 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. 26 But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. 27 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

#### **Luke 18:9–14**

9 To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: 10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.'

13 "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'

14 "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

## HUMILITY – TRANSITIONS

Having covered the vice and consequence of pride, we do well to consider the virtue and reward of humility. Nearly every time the Bible condemns the sin pride it simultaneously exalts this wondrous aspect of the Christian spirit!

**NOTE** – Let us conclude with a brief teaching on humility (per the Book of Proverbs, etc.)...

## HUMILITY – DEFINED

### Q. What is humility?

**A.** Humility is a proper view of oneself in relation to the Lord. It is this sense of godly modesty that fuels the belief that we can “do nothing” and are “nothing” apart from Him. It is that condition of the heart which drives us to reliance upon Christ and selfless service toward one another. It is the inverse of pride! Thus...

**KEY** – The humble are marked by a sense of sp. modesty (i.e., poverty of spirit). Such a one is God-exalting, God-worshipping and, therefore, God-absorbed. They are characterized by faith in the Lord and commitment to His ways and wisdom, knowing how wayward and truly lost they are apart from Him. In Him, it is their habit to prefer others and not themselves in Christ-like service. They are those who fear the Lord!

## HUMILITY – THE LORD AND CORRESPONDING REWARD PT. 1

### Q. What is the posture of the Lord toward the humble?

### Q. What reward(s) is in store for those who practice humility?

#### Proverbs 3:33–35 (Emphasis Mine)

33 The Lord’s curse is on the house of the wicked,  
but he **blesses** the home of the righteous.

34 He mocks proud mockers  
but **shows favor** to the humble and oppressed.

35 The wise inherit **honor**,  
but fools get only shame.

#### Proverbs 11:2 (Emphasis Mine)

2 When pride comes, then comes disgrace,  
but with humility comes **wisdom**.

#### Proverbs 13:10 (Emphasis Mine)

10 Where there is strife there is pride,  
but **wisdom** is found in those who take advice.

#### Proverbs 15:25 (Emphasis Mine)

25 The Lord tears down the house of the proud,  
but he sets the widow’s boundary stones in place  
[i.e., **stability**].

#### Proverbs 18:12 (Emphasis Mine)

12 Before a downfall the heart is haughty,  
but humility comes before **honor**.

**Matthew 7:24–27**

24 “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. 26 But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. 27 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

**James 4:6b**

6 . . . “God opposes the proud  
but shows favor to the humble.”

**Matthew 5:3**

3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**Luke 18:9–14**

9 To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: 10 “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’

13 “But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’

14 “I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

**HUMILITY – THE LORD AND CORRESPONDING REWARD PT. 2****Philippians 2:5–11**

5 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

6 Who, being in very nature God,  
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

7 rather, he made himself nothing  
by taking the very nature of a servant,  
being made in human likeness.

8 And being found in appearance as a man,  
he humbled himself  
by becoming obedient to death—  
even death on a cross!

9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place  
and gave him the name that is above every name,

10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

11 and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

## SUMMATIONS

### Deuteronomy 30:19

19 I have set before you life and death . . . choose life, so that you . . . may live

**NOTE** – I have set before you two “disparate” paths in pride v. humility —choose humility and have its reward.

## CONCLUSIONS

Thank you for joining us today! Allow me to close with the following...

**NOTE 1** – Those who wish to give online may do so at [www.NewLifeBarre.org](http://www.NewLifeBarre.org). Those who wish to give in person can utilize the offering boxes located throughout the church facility. Thank you for your faithfulness in supporting the work of the Lord!

**NOTE 2** – Sunday School each week at 9:15am; Thursday Bible Study at 6:30pm; WM 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday; MM & CYC...

**NOTE 3** – Nicole R. (T. Overseer of the Nursery) is looking for volunteers to participate in the ministry! See her!

**NOTE 4** – The annual Church Picnic is coming soon! It will be held on the last Sunday of the month off-campus.

Next Sunday I will provide the address and instructions to the off-campus property. As always, the church will provide the meat, rolls, condiments, etc. It would be wonderful if you would bring side dishes and desserts (i.e., as it is essentially Potluck Supper week). I would also recommend bringing lawn chairs for you and your family. Come on out and invite a friend!

**NOTE 5** – Those who wish to linger in this sanctuary may feel free to do so. This is to be a house of prayer, so those who feel the need to pray may do so as they please. Moreover, I would be more than happy to pray with those who have need(s).

### Numbers 6:24–26

24 The Lord bless you  
and keep you;

25 the Lord make his face shine on you  
and be gracious to you;

26 the Lord turn his face toward you  
and give you peace.