

THE FIFTY FRUITS OF PRIDE

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Five Things to Know About Pride & Humility

1. Pride Is the Root of All Evil (Genesis 3:5; 1 Timothy 3:6; 1 John 2:15-17)
2. God Hates Pride (Proverbs 8:13; 16:5; Isaiah 23:9; Daniel 4:29-37; James 4:6; 1 Peter 5:5)
3. God Loves Humility (Proverbs 11:2, 15:33, 18:12, 29:23; Isaiah 57:15, 66:2; Micah 6:8; Luke 14:11; 1 Peter 5:6)
4. What Pride Is Not
 - a. Acknowledging and appreciating the gifts and abilities God has given you.
 - b. The presence of godly desire, ambition and purposeful direction in your life (1 Timothy 3:1)
 - c. Acknowledging the work of God within you.
 - d. The pursuit of excellence.
 - e. Defending and proclaiming the truth of Scripture.
5. Pride Is Deceptive (John 8:31-36; Jeremiah 49:16; Proverbs 16:2, 21:2)

The Fifty Fruits of Pride

1. Want to be Well Known or Important (Isaiah 14:13-15; James 3:13-16; Romans 12:6)
 - “I am *selfishly ambitious*. I really want to get ahead and make a name for myself. I want to be someone *important* in life. I like having a position or title. I far prefer leading to following.”
2. Sinfully Competitive
 - “I am *overly competitive*. I always want to win or come out on top and it bothers me when I don’t.”
3. Want to Impress People (Luke 10:38-42)
 - “I want people to be *impressed with me*. I like to make my accomplishments known.”

- a. Clothes or jewelry you wear.
 - b. Vehicle you drive.
 - c. Furniture you own.
 - d. House you live in.
 - e. Place you live.
 - f. Company you work for.
 - g. Amount of money you earn.
 - h. Food you eat.
 - i. How spiritual you are.
 - j. What you look like (physical appearance).
 - k. What you have accomplished.
 - l. What you know.
 - m. Where you went to school.
 - n. Who you know.
 - o. What your background is.
4. Draw Attention to Myself (Proverbs 27:2)
 - “I like to be the *center of attention* and will say or do things to draw attention to myself.”
 5. Like to Talk About Myself
 - “I *like to talk, especially about myself* or persons or things I am involved with. I want people to know what I am doing or thinking. I would rather speak than listen. I have a hard time being succinct.”
 6. Deceitful and Pretentious (Psalm 24:3-4, 26:2-4; Jeremiah 48:10; Proverbs 26:20-26)
 - “I tend to be *deceptive* about myself. I find myself lying to preserve my reputation. I find myself hiding the truth about myself, especially about sins, weaknesses, etc. I don’t want people to know who I really am.”
 7. Desire Recognition and Praise (John 5:41-44; Matthew 6:1, 23:5-7)
 - “I *desire to receive recognition and credit* for what I do. I like people to see what I do and let me know that they noticed. I feel hurt or offended when they don’t. I am overly concerned about my reputation and hate being misunderstood.”

8. Not Fulfilled Serving Others (John 3:30)
 - “I am *not very excited about seeing or making others successful*. I tend to feel envious, jealous or critical towards those who are doing well or being honored.”
9. Self Sufficient (Matthew 4:4; John 15:5; Acts 17:25; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10)
 - “I tend to be *self sufficient* in the way I live my life. I don’t live with a constant awareness that my every breath is dependent upon the will of God. I tend to think I have enough strength, ability and wisdom to live and manage my life. My practice of the spiritual disciplines is inconsistent and superficial. I don’t like to ask others for help.”
10. Anxious (Psalm 4:8; Philippians 4:6-7; 1 Peter 5:6-7)
 - “I am often *anxious* about my life and the future. I tend not to trust God and rarely experience his abiding and transcendent peace in my soul. I have a hard time sleeping at night because of fearful thoughts and burdens I carry.”
11. Self Focused (Exodus 4:11; Job 10:8-11; Psalm 139:13-16; Isaiah 53:2; Jeremiah 1:5)
 - “I am *overly self-conscious*. I tend to replay in my mind how I did, what I said, and how I came across to others. I am very concerned about my appearance and what people think of me. I think about these things constantly.”
12. Fear Man (Proverbs 29:25)
 - “I *fear man* more than God. I am afraid of others and make decisions about what I will say or do based upon this fear. I am afraid to take a stand for things that are right. I am concerned with how people will react to me or perceive my actions or words. I don’t often think about God’s opinion in a matter and rarely think there could be consequences for disobeying him. I primarily seek the approval of man and not of God.”
13. Insecure
 - “I often feel *insecure*. I don’t want to try new things or step out into uncomfortable situations because I’m afraid I’ll fail or look foolish. I am easily embarrassed.”

14. Compare Myself

- “I regularly *compare myself* to others. I am “performance oriented.” I feel that I have greater worth if I do well.”

15. Perfectionist

- “I am *self-critical*. I tend to be a perfectionist. I can’t stand for little things to be wrong because they reflect poorly on me. I have a hard time putting my mistakes behind me.”

16. Self Serving (Philippians 2:19-22)

- “I am *self-serving*. When asked to do something, I find myself asking, ‘How will doing this help me?’ or ‘Will I be inconvenienced?’ I am not focused on the needs and interests of others.”

17. Feel Better or Superior

- “I *feel special or superior* because of what I have or do.”

18. Think Highly of Myself (Romans 12:3, 16; James 2:1-4)

- “I *think highly* of myself. In relation to others I typically see myself as more mature and more gifted. In most situations, I have more to offer than others even though I may not say so. I don’t consider myself average or ordinary.”

19. Credit Myself (1 Corinthians 4:6-7; 15:10)

- “I tend to *give myself credit* for who I am and what I accomplish. I only occasionally think about or recognize that all that I am or have comes from God. I don’t consciously transfer all glory to God for any good I have or any good I do.”

20. Self Righteous (Luke 18:9-14)

- “I tend to be *self-righteous*. I can think that I really have something to offer God. I would never say so, but I think God did well to save me. I seldom think about or recognize my total depravity and helplessness apart from God. I regularly focus on the sins of others. I don’t credit God for any degree of holiness in my life.”

21. Feel Deserving

- “I *feel deserving*. I think I deserve what I have. In fact, I think I ought to have more considering how well I have lived or in light of all I have done.”

22. Ungrateful (Luke 17:11-19; Ephesians 5:19-20; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; Colossians 3:15-17; Philippians 2:14)

- “I often feel *ungrateful*. Instead of thanking other people, I tend to complain about them. I grumble about what I don’t have or my lot in life. I am not amazed by grace on a regular basis and lack joy in my life.”

23. Captive to Self Pity

- “I find myself wallowing in *self-pity*. I am consumed with how I am treated by God and others. I tend to feel mistreated and hate being misunderstood. I seldom recognize or sympathize with what’s going on with others around me because I feel that I have it worse than they do.”

24. Jealous and Envious (James 3:13-16)

- “I can be *jealous or envious* of others abilities, possessions, positions, accomplishments or friends. I want to be what others are or want to have what others have. I think I deserve or should have the good things other people do. I find it hard to rejoice when others are blessed by God.”

25. Unkind and Harsh (Ezekiel 16:49; Psalm 17:10; Proverbs 24:17-18; Luke 10:25-37)

- “I am pretty *insensitive* to others. I feel some people just aren’t worth caring about. I have a hard time showing compassion or extending mercy to others. Some people aren’t worth my time and attention.”

26. Love to Reveal My Mind (Proverbs 18:2)

- “I *like to reveal my own mind*. I have an answer for practically every situation and an opinion on every subject. I feel compelled to balance everyone else out and let them know my thoughts.”

27. Know It All (1 Corinthians 8:1)

- “I have a *know-it-all attitude*. I am impressed by my own knowledge and understanding of things. I feel like there isn’t much I can learn from other people, especially those less mature than me.”

28. Like People to Know I Know

- “I *feel compelled to stop people* when they start to share something with me I already know.”

29. Hard to Admit I Don't Know

- “I find it *hard to admit it when I don't know something*. When someone asks me something I don't know, I will make up an answer rather than admit I don't know.”

30. Don't Listen to Ordinary People

- “I have a *hard time listening to ordinary people*. I listen better to those I respect or people I am wanting to leave with a good impression. I don't honestly listen when someone else is speaking because I am usually planning what I am going to say next.”

31. Interruptive

- “I *interrupt people* regularly. I don't let people finish what they are saying.”

32. Don't Get Much Out of Teaching

- “I *don't get much out of the teaching*. I tend to evaluate the speaker rather than my own life. I grumble about hearing something a second time.”

33. Thinking of Others During Teaching

- “I *listen to teaching with other people in mind*. I constantly think of those folks who need to hear and apply this teaching and wish they were here.”

34. Not Teachable (Proverbs 12:1)

- “I'm *not very open to input*. I don't pursue correction for my life. I tend to be unteachable and slow to repent when corrected. I don't really see correction as a positive thing. I am offended when people probe the motivations of my heart or seek to adjust me.”

35. Don't Admit Wrong Doing (Proverbs 28:13; James 5:16)

- "I have a *hard time admitting that I am wrong*. I find myself covering up or excusing my sins. It is hard for me to confess my sins to others or to ask for forgiveness."

36. Do Not Welcome Correction (Proverbs 15:12)

- "I view *correction as an intrusion* into my privacy rather than an instrument of God for my welfare. I can't identify anyone who would feel welcome to correct me."

37. Resent People Who Correct Me (Proverbs 9:7-9)

- "I *resent people* who attempt to correct me. I don't respond with gratefulness and sincere appreciation for their input. Instead I am tempted to accuse them and dwell on their faults. I get bitter and withdraw."

38. Contentious and Argumentative (James 1:19-20)

- "When corrected, I become *contentious and argumentative*. I don't take people's observations seriously. I minimize and make excuses or give explanations."

39. Get Angry or Offended With Others (1 Corinthians 6:7)

- "I am *easily angered and offended*. I don't like being crossed or disagreed with. I find myself thinking, "I can't believe they did that to me." I often feel wronged. I hate to be misunderstood by others especially those I respect and desire to think highly of me."

40. Constantly in Conflicts (Proverbs 13:10)

- "I have "*personality conflicts*" with others. I have a hard time getting along with certain kinds of people. People regularly tell me they struggle with me."

41. Have Little Esteem or Respect for Others (Numbers 16:1-3)

- "I *lack respect* for other people. I don't think very highly of most people. I have a hard time encouraging and honoring others unless they really do something great."

42. Do Violence with My Mouth (Psalm 101:5; Romans 3:13-14; 3 John 1:9-10)

- “I am a *slanderer*. I find myself either giving or receiving evil reports about others. I am not concerned about the effect of slander on me because of my maturity level. I think I can handle it. I only share with others the things I think they really need to know. I don’t tell all. Anyway, the things I say or hear about people are usually true.”

43. Sow Discord (Proverbs 28:25)

- “I am *divisive*. My actions and attitudes separate people rather than unite people. My words frequently undermined the confidence and trust people have in one another. I also tend to resist or resent authority. I don’t like other people to give me orders or directions.”

44. Demean or Belittle Others

- “With a motivation to put people in their place or look good myself, I like to *demean* or put others down. They need my adjustment. This includes leaders. Other people need to be humble and have a “sober” assessment of themselves.”

45. Critical

- “I tend to be *critical* of others. I find myself feeling or talking negatively about people. I subtly feel better about myself when I see how bad someone else is. I find it far easier to evaluate than to encourage someone else.”

46. Self Willed and Stubborn

- “I am *self-willed and stubborn*. I have a hard time cooperating with others. I really prefer my own way and often insist on getting it.”

47. Independent (Proverbs 18:1; Luke 1:51-52)

- “I am *independent and uncommitted*. I don’t really see why I need other people. I can easily separate myself from others. I don’t get much out of the small group meetings.”

48. Unaccountable (Acts 2:42; Hebrews 10:25)

- “I am *unaccountable*. I don’t ask others to hold me responsible to follow through on my commitments. I don’t really need accountability for my words and actions.”

49. Unsubmissive (Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 5:5)

- “I am *unsubmissive*. I don’t like being under the authority of another person. I don’t see submission as a good and necessary provision from God for my life. I have a hard time supporting and serving those over me. I don’t “look up” to people and I like to be in charge. Other people may need leaders but I don’t. It is important that my voice is always heard.”

50. Feel Mature

- “I really appreciate somebody taking the time to put this paper together. It will really be a big help to my friends and family. However, I don’t really need this because *I think I’m pretty humble already.*”

How to Deal with Pride in Your Life

1. Ask God to illuminate your heart so you can begin to see the fruits of pride in your life. Ask friends to point out the fruits of pride in your life realizing your heart is exceedingly deceitful. Be self-suspicious.
2. Ask God to convict you point by point (Psalm 139:23-24) and trust that he will. You don’t want or need general condemnation, only specific, godly conviction.
3. Confess your pride to God point by point and ask for his forgiveness. Just as importantly, ask him to cleanse you of all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).
4. Don’t ask God to humble you – the Scripture says to humble yourself (1 Peter 5:6). Humility isn’t an emotion; it’s a decision of the will to think and act differently.
5. Confess your sins of pride to those you have affected and to your friends. They can help to hold you accountable and bring the on-going encouragement and correction you will need.
6. Ask God to give you a holy hatred for pride and its fruits in your life. Be continually on the alert. Don’t allow pride to grow in your heart.
7. Ask God to give you a love for anonymity. Encourage and serve others each and every day. Associate with the lowly.
8. Think much about God and little about yourself. Regularly study the goodness and greatness of God.

9. Live to promote the reputation of God and not your own. Be impressed with God – don't be impressed with yourself. Find your satisfaction in him and not in your vain accomplishments.
10. Remember your war against pride is life-long. It is not a battle won in a day. But as you faithfully put pride to death and put on humility, you will experience greater freedom and more importantly greater conformity to image and likeness of Christ. In so doing, God will be glorified in your life!