

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

March 5

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The Dangers of Pride

Pride is defined as “a high or inordinate opinion of one’s own dignity, importance, merit, or superiority whether as cherished in one’s mind or as displayed in one’s conduct.” To be simply put, pride is an exaggerated, high opinion of one’s self. It is a feeling of being better than others, and it is often described as conceit, egotism, or vainglory. You see, the fact of the matter is, pride is dangerous, and it is very important that we do not think more highly of ourselves than we ought to think (Romans 12:3). So, with that thought pressed upon our minds, let’s take a look at some things concerning pride.

The Pride of Life Is of The World.

Sadly, the world we live in today seems to operate from a sense of pride. However, we all need to remember that the pride of life is not of God the Father, but rather the pride of life is of the world (1 John 2:16), and Paul instructs Christians not to be conformed to this world (Romans 12:2). So, may we all avoid friendship with the world (James 4:4), and let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall (1 Corinthians 10:12).

Pride Removes God From One’s Thoughts.

Another danger of pride is, it can make one forget about their dependance upon God. You see, pride can and sometimes does remove God from ones thoughts and in Psalm 10:4, we

read, “*The wicked in his proud countenance does not seek God; God is in none of his thoughts.*” Friend, beware of pride, and never exclude God from your thoughts.

Pride Promotes One To Be Self-Willed.

Pride will and can also promote one to be self-willed. You see, pride causes one to think that their way is always the best way or the only way, and this is dangerous because that mentality will often lead to contention. So again, beware of the danger of pride, and remember these words of wisdom, “by pride comes nothing but strife” (Proverbs 13:10).

God Resists The Proud.

My friends, pride is also dangerous because of the fact that God is opposed to the proud. Therefore, we all need to understand and beware of the fact that God does resist the proud (Proverbs 3:34; James 4:6; 1 Peter 5:5). Therefore, avoid pride, and do not be one who is at war with God.

God Hates Pride.

You see, the fact of the matter is, God hates pride, and in Proverbs 16:5, the wise man revealed, “*Everyone proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord; Though they join forces, none will go unpunished.*” My friend that is serious, so think about that and humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord (James 4:10). For, the Lord will destroy the house of the proud (Proverbs 15:25), and always remember my friends, He is able to, and will put down those who walk in pride (Daniel 4:37; Matthew 23:12).

Once more, let us all beware of the dangers of pride, strive to avoid it, and may we all hold onto these inspired words of wisdom, “*The fear of the Lord is to hate evil; pride and arrogance and the evil way...*” (Proverbs 8:13).

✍️ Brad Phillips

WRITING RULES FOR GOD

There is always the danger of writing rules for God. As an example, the Pharisees had all sorts of extraneous interpretations which could be interpreted as adding rules for God. We need to understand that in religion there is one LAWGIVER and it is God who writes the rules and His rules are found in His Word. James 4:12 says: "There is one Lawgiver and Judge." Guy Wood wrote: "It is a remarkable fact that God has always looked with greater severity upon those who presume to make laws for Him than upon those who break the laws which He made. The latter may result from weakness, ignorance and downright stupidity; the former is officious presumption of the most highhanded nature." The Epistle of James p 240.

No body of men or church, however powerful, has the right to pass laws on what pleases or displeases God, and what He demands of us and bind them as obligations on others. It is to be understood that we cannot write rules for God, because He has already spoken. Hebrews 1:1-2 says: "God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in the past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds." Thus, we have no right or authority to judge anyone by our words and rules because the Lord's words will judge us all in the last Day (Jn. 12:48).

No one has the right or authority to write a book of rules, and judge men and women thereby, because God already has a book. Revelations 20:12 says: "And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books." Thus, the only binding rules or

authority we have, in religion originated with the Lord, who has all authority both in heaven and on earth (Matt. 28:18). Colossians 3:17 says: "And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus..." Therefore, whatever we teach, and whatever we practice, must be by the authority of the Lord Jesus.

Therefore, we all need to be very concerned with writing rules for God. In a world of religious bodies, each with their human creeds and tests for loyalty, the Lord's church acknowledges no document as authoritative in religious matters, but God's Book. It is all that is needed because it is complete and will make man complete (2 Tim. 3:16-17). In matters where God has given us liberty, we must allow others to have the same liberty. We must refrain from binding our rules, opinions, and judgments upon others. To follow and obey God's rules (Word) is a way that is right and cannot be wrong.

✍ Dennis Abernathy

Belleville church of Christ

5635 S County Rd 200E - Belleville, IN - (317) 539-5258

www.bellevillechurch.net

Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship	4:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00 p.m.

Evangelist

Brad Phillips (765) 720-2816