



SEVEN • Pride

Introduction

We were going to put “Pride” as the first of our Seven Deadly Sins studies, but we felt you were way too arrogant to take our input. Having been sufficiently humbled by our previous studies, you are now ready to consider Pride.

Welcome to Arrogance 101. This from Business2.com

Naveen Jain Is the Greatest High-Tech Entrepreneur of All Human History.

If Jain’s success is now greeted with wonderment by some of his erstwhile Microsoft cronies, Jain himself seems to have no trouble explaining it. In all earnestness he declares, “I know I can get any deal done because I can always outsmart the person across the table.” Jain never prepares a script for meetings or speeches, so he can more easily adapt to the situation at hand. That kind of self-reliance serves him well, for the most part, but as Jain says, “People don’t know how to distinguish between confidence and arrogance.” According to him, if somebody finds him arrogant, they must suffer from low self-esteem; if they think him merely confident, their self-esteem is intact. Thus, jujitsu-like, Jain’s arrogance becomes someone else’s character defect.

Read. From Quicken.com

Executive Etiquette: Survey Suggests Smug Attitude Can Hinder Management Prospects

MENLO PARK, Calif., June 14 /PRNewswire/

Confidence is critical when interviewing for a job, but executives warn against too much of a good thing. In a recent survey, 50 percent of chief financial officers (CFOs) said arrogance is a management-level candidate’s biggest pitfall.

CFOs were asked, “Which one of the following is the worst mistake a candidate can make when interviewing for a management-level position?” Their responses:

<i>Display arrogance</i>	<i>50%</i>
<i>Avoid difficult questions</i>	<i>13%</i>
<i>Be unprepared to discuss specific achievements</i>	<i>13%</i>
<i>Ask up-front about compensation and benefits</i>	<i>10%</i>
<i>Demonstrate a lack of knowledge of the company</i>	<i>9%</i>
<i>None/Other/don’t know</i>	<i>5%</i>

I. How would you define pride?



2. Here are four words we throw around a great bit: arrogant, conceited, prideful, and vain. Are these words different, or are they saying the same thing?

3. How would you define the difference between confidence and pride?

The Signs of Pride

The book of Proverbs gives four telltale signs of Pride. Most everyone manifests some of these traits to some degree because we all struggle with pride. The question is to what degree.

Sign number one from Theregister.co.uk

Guest Flame of The Week: World's most travelled man is pathetic braggart.

Background: Phil Haines appears in the Guinness Book of Records as the world's youngest man to travel every country in the world. He runs Live-travel a small bespoke tour operator, which takes people to the likes of North Korea, Iraq and Libya (Yes, really). And he has a regular writing gig at The Independent on Sunday.

From: Kyaw Kyaw Win (Dr)

Subject: Braggart

Do you not actually realize that this kind of pathetic egotistical bragging has, in fact, precisely the opposite effect? All it does is make you appear like a sad trainspotting pompous smart know-it-all anorak. You really are quite pathetic. Get a life.

Proverbs 25:6

Do not exalt yourself in the king's presence, and do not claim a place among great men;

Proverbs 27:2

Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; someone else, and not your own lips.

Proverbs 12:9

Better to be a nobody and yet have a servant than pretend to be somebody and have no food.

4. How do you feel when you catch yourself bragging? Why?

5. When was the last time you caught yourself bragging? About what?

6. Is bragging just socially unacceptable, or is it sin?

Sign number two from Rinfret.com

Stories of egotistical CEO's:

- *A H was Chairman of Corning Glass. I had warned him a year ahead of time a recession was coming. He ignored the warning. The recession came and the earnings were mangled. He fired me for failing to warn him. He also fired his Planning and Research Directors since we had all failed him!*



- *The President of Masonite asked me if I would present to his officers a figure on “housing starts” which differed from his own. I said “Yes if I was asked for the figure but I would not go out of my way to make the point.” He answered he could never hire anyone who disagreed with him.*
- *The Chairman of the Brunswick Corporation took credit for an enormous earnings spurt. He asked for and received a super bonus. He cut by 50 percent all the bonuses of his executive officers. When asked why he said that they did not deserve it. He and he alone was responsible for the earnings surge. It took the company three years to recover!*
- *The new President of the Westinghouse Corporation fired his entire planning and research department. The reason was that “I get all the information I need from the newspapers.” He ultimately destroyed a marvelous and venerable corporation which is now a shadow of its former self. I could tell you a zillion more but you get the point!*

Proverbs 29:1

A man who remains stiff-necked after many rebukes will suddenly be destroyed – without remedy.

7. How well do you take correction and instruction from others? Who is it most difficult to take correction from?
8. Why is a lack of teachability a sign of pride?

Sign number three from Salon.com

In the interest of establishing what most of us intuited, Brill’s Content hired a research and consulting firm to conduct several focus groups testing viewers’ responses to Bryant Gumbel. The conclusion: People don’t like him. They find him arrogant, condescending, uncaring. They feel that if they were drowning, Gumbel would not throw them a life preserver -- or, at the very least, would ask them what they had done to deserve it. Conditional love is tough to sell before coffee.

Proverbs 21:4

Haughty eyes and a proud heart, the lamp of the wicked, are sin!

Proverbs 21:24

The proud and arrogant man – “Mocker” is his name; he behaves with overweening pride.

9. Why is mocking considered prideful?
10. What does it mean in Proverbs 21:4 that “haughty eyes and a proud heart” are “the lamp of the wicked”?

Sign number four from Eonline.com

Who’s the Most Vain of Them All? Inside word from the Sylvester Stallone camp is that he’s seeing stars – as in, himself. I’ll explain: Those who know say Mr. Stallone, while making whichever movie he happens to be making, requires that his glam trailer be lined inside quite glam-ly. As in, all mirrors.



Plastic surgery. The good the bad and the ugly

Or Mary Tyler Moore, who appeared recently in a TV movie with her old sparring partner Ed Asner. He looked like Lou Grant 15 years on. She looked embalmed. “She’s on an unofficial plastic surgery blacklist,” one surgeon confesses. “I’ve been told not to touch her. She doesn’t know when to stop. She’s a little crazy with this stuff.”

11. Is vanity a form of pride? Can one be self absorbed and not prideful?

Pride Toward God

It’s not just other people who find pride unattractive. Of all human sin, God finds pride perhaps the most offensive.

Read Luke 18:11-14

The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men – robbers, evildoers, adulterers – or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’

“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.’

“I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

12. Why is pride so offensive to God?

13. Is your basis for approaching God how you stack up to others or His love and mercy?

14. How have you tried to justify yourself to God?

15. Can you remember a time that you, like the tax collector, humbled yourself before God, stopped justifying yourself, and received God’s offer of forgiveness?

Summary

We’re all prideful. Think through the degree to which pride is manifested in your life. Would people describe you as arrogant? Also, consider whether you have ever humbled yourself before God, or whether you’ve been more like the Pharisee, always looking to justify yourself, and earn God’s favor.

End 

The Compass is the discipleship curriculum for Campus Crusade for Christ’s Campus Ministry. It was created by Centerfield Productions, the field based division of CruPress. We’d love to hear your feedback on this lesson. Please write us at centerfield@uscm.org