

PRIDE vs. HUMILITY

God tells us that He is *“opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”* (1 Peter 5:5) He is zealous for us to engage and enjoy the life, joy, wisdom and strength that comes from being in humble dependence upon Him. In a hostile world, separating ourselves from the sufficiency of His strength (for whatever reason) is sure destruction. Pride is an argument in our own soul that keeps us from seeking the shelter and provision that the Lord freely offers.

So how do we know if our hearts are in pride or humility?

The following chart contrasts twenty specific differences between how pride functions and how humility functions in our lives. As you examine each of these distinctions...

- a.) ask the Holy Spirit to show you where your heart may be operating in pride,
- b.) ask Him for help to let go of the pride and repent, and
- c.) on the basis of (John 16:13-15) ask Him to fill you with the grace-filled humility of Jesus.

THE PRIDEFUL HEART

Pride in the heart is quick to blame others.

Pride in the heart perpetually claims and demands rights.

Pride in the heart seeks to conceal one's own sins and weaknesses. When it confesses sin at all, it confesses in generalities.

Pride in the heart compares one's self to others and seeks to gain honor for one's self.

Pride in the heart is inclined to draw attention to self and our own abilities.

Pride in the heart is habitually concerned about being “respectable” and “acceptable” to others.

Pride in the heart looks at one's own faults through a telescope, but examines others' with a microscope.

Pride in the heart is defensive when criticized and desperately strives to establish and protect one's own reputation.

THE HUMBLE HEART

Humility in the heart accepts responsibility for one's own actions and consequences.

Humility in the heart is ready and willing and able to yield rights.

Humility in the heart is zealous to have the Holy Spirit reveal the roots of one's sin.

Humility in the heart compares one's self with the holiness of Jesus and lives in appreciation of His mercy.

Humility in the heart says “It's not me. It's Him!” and witnesses to Jesus' greatness.

Humility in the heart concerns itself with being honest, and real before God and then with others.

Humility in the heart is compassionate, forgiving and searches out the best in others.

Humility in the heart is not provoked. It yields its own reputation to Jesus' reputation and allows Jesus to establish her/his reputation.

THE PRIDEFUL HEART

Pride in the heart finds it difficult to share significant needs with others.

Pride in the heart exploits the failures, faults and weaknesses of others for one's own benefit or image.

Pride in the heart has a hard time saying, "I was wrong. Please forgive me."

Pride in the heart hears a message, and quickly thinks of someone else who needs to hear it.

Pride in the heart is self-conscious.

Pride in the heart yearns to demonstrate how much it knows.

Pride in the heart keeps people at arm's length for fear of others' seeing one's imperfections.

Pride in the heart makes one unapproachable.

Pride in the heart has a tight-fisted, demanding spirit.

Pride in the heart feels wronged & offended when others are promoted beyond it.

Pride in the heart is driven to prove self.

Pride in the heart is consistently working situations and people in order to maintain control.

THE HUMBLE HEART

Humility in the heart searches others out to be open and transparent with.

Humility in the heart strives to protect the dignity of others in love, prayer and the hope of redemption.

Humility in the heart is quick to admit one's failure and seek forgiveness.

Humility in the heart hears a Word and receives it, and allows the Holy Spirit to plant it in one's own soul.

Humility in the heart has learned to be "agape" conscious.

Humility in the heart is zealous to learn, no matter who is doing the teaching.

Humility in the heart risks getting close to others with the hope that one may find friendship even in the midst of weakness.

Humility in the heart is easy to "be entreated".

Humility in the heart is generous - very generous.

Humility in the heart maintains one's peace when it is overlooked and rejoices in the good fortune of others.

Humility in the heart is secure and confident in the integrity of one's words and actions first before God and then before men.

Humility in the heart consistently listens to the Spirit, and willingly surrenders control to God and those He brings to help offer leadership.