

Wisdom of the Bible ~ Arrogance ~ Discussion Questions

1. To be “arrogant” (adj) means exaggerating one’s own worth or importance in an unpleasantly overpowering manner; being excessively proud, haughty or lordly. “Arrogance” (noun) means a feeling of superiority demonstrated in an overbearing manner. Antonyms would include humble (humility) and unassuming.

Arrogance is an outlook that says:

- What I achieve is because of me.
- I am strong and need no one’s help.
- When I achieve something good, the credit belongs to me.

Humility is an outlook that says:

- What I achieve is due to God’s grace.
- I am weak and need God’s help.
- When I achieve something good, the credit belongs to God.

2. What does God think about arrogance?

Psalm 5:4-5 _____

Isaiah 2:12 _____

Isaiah 42:8 _____

Luke 14:11 _____

Romans 11:19-21 _____

James 4:6 _____

3. Why else does the Bible say that arrogant pride is dangerous?

Proverbs 11:2 _____

Proverbs 16:18 _____

4. Lon Solomon, Senior Pastor at the McLean Bible Church said “I am convinced that arrogance is the ‘mother sin’ of every other sin.” Do you believe that? Can you think of an example? How would arrogance relate to adultery? To coveting things belonging to your neighbor? To worshipping an idol?

5. Can good people be arrogant or proud? (Matthew 26:31-35, Mark 10:35-37) How was Peter arrogant? Does God forgive arrogance? How can we be forgiven?

6. How can we protect ourselves against arrogance?

A. Give God the credit for what you achieve. (1 Corinthians 15:9-10)

B. Surround yourself with honest friends who will point out your arrogance.

(Proverbs 27:6)

C. Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought. (Romans 12:3)

Compare yourself with the right standard, which is what?

Wisdom of the Bible ~ Arrogance ~ Questions for Small Groups

1. Is pride always a bad thing? How about taking pride in a job well done, taking pride in winning a sports match, being proud of graduating, being proud of your child, or being proud of Morristown (or America)? What's the difference between this kind of pride and the pride the Lord hates (Proverbs 8:13)? Is there a clear line between "good" pride" and bad pride? Can "good" pride become bad pride?
2. The Lord answered Hannah's prayers and she had a baby boy, Samuel. After his birth, she offered a prayer of thanksgiving to God. What was one of the things she prayed for? (1 Samuel 2:3)
3. What was the main reason that the Lord destroyed Sodom? (Ezekiel 16:49-50)
4. What are some ways that the Lord punishes arrogance, even of his own people? (Hosea 5:5-6, 12:8-9, Zephaniah 2:10-11)
5. Because you are a Christian, do you sometimes feel arrogant toward non-believers? (Be honest!) (Isaiah 65:5, esp New Living Translation, Romans 3:27, 4:1-5)
6. In Proverbs 21:24, what does Solomon say is the name of an arrogant person? We don't often use this word—what does it mean?
7. In Moses' final sermon before the Israelites crossed the Jordan River into the promised land, what did he warn the people about? (Deuteronomy 8:11-20)
8. In conclusion, read Proverbs 6:16-19 and consider what is listed first in the things that the Lord hates.