

Hallelujah Anyway, Part 8

Pastor Steve Berger May 24, 2015

Hallelujah Anyway

...having a faith that no matter what happens in your life, you continue to trust and praise God, knowing that God, and no circumstance, has the final word over you!

Humility is key concept in Philippians 2:1-11

**Humility —
entirely trusting and depending on God
in every aspect of life, knowing our place as creation
and submitting to God as Creator**

Philippians 2:1-11

Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Humility — *no selfish ambition or conceit, lowliness of mind esteem others better than self, look out for others NOT just self, Jesus no reputation, bondservant, humbled Himself to death of cross*

**We live in a culture that devalues humility
and celebrates pride and arrogance**

*The word **awesome** ends with **ME!***

Concern— *pride is so prevalent in the world it goes unnoticed and therefore un-repenting of in church!*

Interesting — *pride is much more hidden and deceptive than blatant in-your-face statements.*

"Pride is the worst viper that is in the heart. It is the most hidden, secret and deceptive of all sins."¹ Jonathan Edwards

"It is pride that made redemption needful; it is from our pride we need above everything to be redeemed."² Andrew Murray

**The church needs to be redeemed from the worst,
most hidden, secret and deceptive of all sins!
We cannot allow the world to conform us to its ungodly image!**

¹ Michael J. McClymond and Gerald R. McDermott, *The Theology of Jonathan Edwards*, (New York: Oxford University Press, 2012), 72

² Andrew Murray, *The Wisdom of Andrew Murray, Volume 1*, (Radford, VA: Wilder Publications, 2008), 12

Before we get into humility — we need to first talk about pride...humility's number one enemy — our number one enemy!

**Understanding the sinfulness of pride
positions us to repent of it
to allow healing!**

The history of pride

Isaiah 14:12-15

"How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.' Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the Pit."

- pride started in the heart of Lucifer
- God heard his prideful, silent words
- WARNING — if you let pride have its way in your heart, it will come out of your mouth
 - Matthew 12:34
 - "out of the abundance of your heart, your mouth will speak",
- pride started in the heart of Lucifer
- pride caused Satan's fall from heaven, unrepentant pride always causes fall
- the essence of pride contends for supremacy with God, and the glorifying of self
- pride is wrapped many ways, but ultimately has one goal — self-glorification
- **I** will ascend, **I** will exalt, **I** will sit, **I** will be like the Most High

Ezekiel 28:12-19

"Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering: The sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes was prepared for you on the day you were created. "You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; you were on the holy mountain of God; you walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you. "By the abundance of your trading you became filled with violence within, and you sinned; therefore I cast you as a profane thing out of the mountain of God; and I destroyed you, O covering cherub, from the midst of the fiery stones. Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor; I cast you to the ground, I laid you before kings that they might gaze at you. "You defiled your sanctuaries by the multitude of your iniquities, by the iniquity of your trading; therefore I brought fire from your midst; it devoured you, and I turned you to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all who saw you. All who knew you among the peoples are astonished at you; you have become a horror, and shall be no more forever."

- Satan had perfection, wisdom, beauty, access, gifting — wasn't enough for him.
- **iniquity was found** — it always is, unrepentant pride is always found and exposed, there is no hiding place from the Father of Creation, He hates pride too much to let it go unnoticed in His children.
- **"abundance of your trading"** — multitude of peddling, SELF, to angels, what started silently in heart became peddling words of self-promotion and glorification!

- **“filled with violence within”** – filled with unjust gain, received something not deserving of, worship and glory, from angels old self to.
- **“corrupted your wisdom for sake of your splendor”** – forsook wisdom, the right thing, to bolster ego by promoting self to get something that not yours.

“In culture, pursuing greatness looks like this; individuals motivated by self-interest, self-indulgence, and a false sense of sufficiency pursues selfish ambition for the purpose of self-glorification.”³ C. J. Mahaney

Genesis 3:1-6 — Pride in the Garden

“Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, 'Has God indeed said, 'you shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?' And the woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.”

- Satan tempted Eve with the very thing that caused his own fall – pride, eyes opened, you'll be like God, knowing good and evil
- become an independent self – no need for depending on God, no humility!

“Pride is the essence of all sin. Pride is when sinful human beings aspire to the status and position of God and refuse to acknowledge their dependence on Him.”⁴ C. J. Mahaney

“Humility, the place of entire dependence on God, is, from the very nature of things, the first duty and the highest virtue of the creature, and the root of every virtue.”⁵ Andrew Murray

God’s hatred of pride

- Proverbs 6:16-19 – These six things the LORD hates. Yes, seven are an abomination to Him: A proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that are swift in running to evil, a false witness who speaks lies, and one who sows discord among brethren.

Interesting – *those 7 are the history and summary of Satan and what he did to mankind! No wonder God calls them an abomination, a stench in His nostrils!*

- Proverbs 8:13 – The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way and the perverse mouth I hate.
- Proverbs 16:5 – Everyone proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD; Though they join forces, none will go unpunished.

The horror of pride — disastrous results it produces

- Proverbs 16:18 – Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.
- Proverbs 18:12 – Before destruction the heart of a man is haughty, and before honor is humility.

C. J. Mahaney, *Humility: True Greatness*, (Colorado Springs, CO, Multnomah Books, 2008)

⁴ ibid

⁵ Andrew Murray, *The Wisdom of Andrew Murray, Volume 1*, (Radford, VA: Wilder Publications, 2008), 8

- James 4:6 – GOD RESISTS THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.

The point

**When we see the History of Pride —
Satan is behind it, sourcing it, seducing with it**

**When we see God’s Hatred of Pride —
it’s an abomination, a stench to Him**

**When we see the Horror of Pride —
it produces destruction, fall, opposition of God**

**We must humbly recognize, repent and root it out —
God will give us grace to.**

“At every stage of our Christian development and in every sphere of our Christian discipleship, pride is the greatest enemy and humility our greatest friend.”⁶ John Stott

Discussion Questions

1. Why is understanding pride so extremely important in our spiritual lives?
2. Why is it hard to “esteem others better” than yourself?
3. Discuss areas of pride you have to deal with — that might be noticeable to others.
4. Discuss areas of pride you have to deal with — that are hidden in your heart.
5. Understanding that God really does hear the meditations of your heart — how do you want to change inside?
6. Satan had every desirable thing — and it wasn’t enough. What more do you need? How much is enough?
7. We, in our American, educated, affluent lifestyle, struggle to become even more independent. How does that affect our relationship with God?
8. The first thing listed that the God hates is “a proud look.” Why is it at the top of the list?
9. What would it look like if a married couple relinquished pride and embraced humility?
10. John Stott said that at every stage of Christian development pride is our greatest enemy, and humility our greatest friend. What did he mean?
11. What kinds of pride have crept into our churches?

**Click on "House of Prayer" on www.gracechapel.net to fill out a prayer request.
We pray for requests for one month, and at our weekly prayer meetings.**

**Please come join our House of Prayer,
Tuesday, May 26th at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.**

⁶ C. J. Mahaney, *Humility: True Greatness*, (Colorado Springs, CO, Multnomah Books, 2008)