

# Pride

Some definitions related to pride:

- *Ego*: Awareness of your own existence: “I think, therefore I am.” – Rene Descartes. Ego is normal; ego is not bad. Merely possessing an ego is not arrogance – not having an ego would be a form of extreme psychosis.
- *Egocentric*: adj. Regarding everything in relationship to one’s self. “I am the center of the universe – everything revolves around me.” It is the natural (old sin nature) condition of young children. Only the inculcation from childhood of moral absolutes as contained in the Word will suppress this attitude in people. Egocentricity has the connotation of pride since arrogant people are self-centered and subjective.
- *Egoism*: Excessive concern for or through one’s self – a synonym for arrogance. Can be expressed in two “opposite” modes: self-aggrandizement or self-pity. In the Greek, the word is ὑπερφρονέω (*hyperphroneo*) – to *over-think*. This is closely related to:
  - *Egotism*: noun; Refers to thinking overly much about one’s self. Has the connotation of conceit. Preoccupation with self. Can lead to a psychopathic personality exhibiting emotional imbalance, disorientation to life, subjectivity, instability, egocentricity, and arrogance.
  - *Pride*: a normal emotion or expression of well-being of a properly balanced personality (ego). However, the term is frequently used in its negative sense as applied to an imbalanced (arrogant) personality. In this sense, it is a mental attitude sin of inappropriate self-esteem. It is excessive delight in one’s own mentality, achievements, possessions, abilities or status or rank in life – either real or alleged.
    1. In its negative sense, pride is the basic and fundamental mental attitude sin. It is the product of excessive self-esteem, conceit, and subjective thinking. Pride is often applied to thought, whereas arrogance is applied to the expression of pride in deeds.
      - Pride (false pride) is lofty self-respect or overly high esteem of one’s self, whether the reasons for it are real or imagined. Pride is linked to disorientation to reality; it’s the ultimate form of self-deception.
      - Vanity is empty pride. This is pride that has no real attainment or possession to justify it, but regardless, is expressed in a strong desire for attention and praise from others.

## Pride (Continued)

2. English words for pride: conceit, egotism, haughtiness, vanity, arrogance, vain-glory, superciliousness. The psychiatric term “megalomania” refers to a condition of mental alienation characterized by delusions of greatness or grandeur, or an obsession or mania for big or great things.
3. Pride was Satan’s original sin and the motivation for his fall. ([Isaiah 14:12-14](#), [Ezekiel 28:13-17](#)) His 1<sup>st</sup> fall was mental: ([Isaiah 14:13-14](#); [Ezekiel 28:15-17](#)) His 2<sup>nd</sup> fall was positional: ([Isaiah 14:12](#); [Ezekiel 28:13, 14](#)) Human pride began with Adam.
  - Pride motivates other mental-attitude sins. For example, pride and jealousy always travel together. When a person takes arrogant pride in his abilities, accomplishment, possessions, etc., he will always be jealous of someone who has greater abilities, accomplishments, or possessions. Arrogant people are always jealous people.
  - Arrogant people are also weak people. They will display “cockiness” (self-aggrandizement) – often disguised as self-assurance – during times of prosperity, but their cockiness turns to self-pity in times of pressures or disaster.
  - [Romans 12](#) presents the Royal Family Honor Code (RFHC). The arrogant person cannot function under this code. Arrogant people tend to intrude into the business of others and “bully” others in violation of the RFHC. False pride is the only disease that makes everyone sick except the one who has it!
4. Scriptures on pride: [1 Timothy 3:6](#) – this passage describes a neophyte ( $\nu\epsilon\omicron\varsigma$  = *new*,  $\phi\upsilon\tau\omicron\nu$  = *plant*), [1 Timothy 6: 3, 4](#); [2 Timothy 3:12](#) – rejection of authority as an expression of arrogance; [1 John 2:15, 16](#).

## Pride (Continued)

5. Pride is related to personal apostasy ([Psalm 10:2-4](#)). *“In pride the wicked [reversionists] hotly pursue the afflicted. Let them be caught in the plots which they devised.”* Psalm 10:3 tells us, *“For the wicked [proud] boasts of his heart’s desire and the greedy man curses and spurns the Lord.”* [Psalm 10:4](#); *“The wicked [arrogant] in the haughtiness of his countenance does not seek him. All of his thoughts are ‘There is no God.’”* (New American Standard Bible)

Proverbs 16:18: *“Pride precedes destruction, and before a fall, arrogance of spirit prevails.”* We manufacture our own misery when we carry around with us the mental attitude sins of pride and arrogance.

Reversionism, as applied to unbelievers, is referred to in [Romans 1:30](#) (*“slanderers, haters of God...”*).

[James 4:4-7](#) (referring to believers) quotes from Proverbs 3:34: *“God opposes the arrogant but He gives grace to the humble”* ([James 4:6](#)). [James 4:7](#) tells us to *“Be subordinate to the authority of God; but oppose the Devil and he will flee from you.”*

[1 Peter 5:5, 6](#) (expanded translation): *“Likewise [in the same way] ye novices [believers who have not grown much] be under the authority and the communication of the Word. Yea, all of you [in the congregation] fasten yourselves to each other with grace thinking [RMA], because God opposes the arrogant but gives grace to the humble.”*; and [Verse 6](#) – *“Therefore become grace-oriented under the authority of the ruling hand of God, in order that He may promote you at the proper time [maturity].”*

6. Arrogance is related to national reversionism. ([Leviticus 26:19](#)) When a nation becomes arrogant, it will go through successive cycles of discipline, including economic destruction, loss of basic freedoms, military defeat, and the eventual destruction of the nation.