

## 10. When Are We Too Proud?

Sure, it's good to have pride in your achievements and in who you are. But at what point does a person become too proud?

The definition of the word "proud" in iPhone app WordNet3.0 is – Having or showing arrogant superiority to and disdain of those one views as unworthy.

When we think we are superior above everyone else and become arrogant is when it has gone too far. This is when we can get into a pattern of only thinking of ourselves and getting what we want, not caring about the consequences or wellbeing of other people.

Jesus worked hard to teach us to be humble servants and to not get trapped into pridefulness (**Scriptures 1. Jesus Taught Us to Be Humble Servants**). Jesus also spoke about the Pharisees. How they followed all the Jewish laws, but they were proud. He warned us not to be like them (**Scriptures 2. Don't Be Like the Pharisees**).

Pharisees thought they knew it all. They loved money and had expensive things and wore fine clothing, not caring about the welfare of other people. Everything had to be done their way and they were quick to condemn people for wrong doings. When they prayed, they prayed loudly in public so everyone could see how great they are. They were arrogant and thought they were superior to everyone else.

During my childhood and young adult days, I was told practically everyday (in one way or another) that I was unimportant. Everyone else on this planet was more important than me. And no one cared if I was hurting or needing something. I wasn't worth the bother to help or love. I knew deep inside that wasn't true, but still somehow, I lived my life as though it was. I always considered other people's wants and feelings over mine. So, I actually had to learn how to have pride in myself and to do some things that were good for me, even if other people didn't like it. However, being careful not to become too proud as some other people I have seen and/or known.

For me, a proud person thinks they are always right and they know it all. They put people down if they dare to disagree. They think they are more important than anyone else and everything has to be done their way. They often put themselves at center of attention, even if a gathering is about someone else. They can also tend to be bossy and controlling and they don't care how other people feel.

So where do we draw the line? At what point are we too proud?

Jesus taught us to have a servant mindset; to care about and help other people. He also taught us to be humble; to know we too are sinners and are not even close to being perfect. If we have that humble servant mindset, we will not be as tempted to become arrogant or proud. Once we start living life just for ourselves (and our family), and not thinking of other people is when we run into trouble. When we believe we deserve all that we have because we worked hard to get it can lead us to pridefulness too. Yes, you should be proud of all your hard work, but remember, not everyone has had the health, opportunity, and ability as God has blessed you with.

Remember, it's not all about you. Be a humble servant. Care for others and follow Jesus!

## jenaministries – Part 2 - 10. When Are We Too Proud?

### Scriptures 1. Jesus Taught Us to Be Humble Servants

Luke 18:9-14 To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable:

“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—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 all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

Matthew 18:1-5 At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”

He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. And he said: “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.

John 13:14-15 Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.

Matthew 20:25-28 Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Luke 14:10-11 But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, ‘Friend, move up to a better place.’ Then you will be honored in the presence of all the other guests. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

## jenaministries – Part 2 - 10. When Are We Too Proudful?

### Scriptures 2. Don't Be Like the Pharisees

**Matthew 23:1-4** Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples: "The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. So you must be careful to do everything they tell you. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach. They tie up heavy, cumbersome loads and put them on other people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them.

**Matthew 23:13-33** "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the door of the kingdom of heaven in people's faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to.

"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You travel over land and sea to win a single convert, and when you have succeeded, you make them twice as much a child of hell as you are.

"Woe to you, blind guides! You say, 'If anyone swears by the temple, it means nothing; but anyone who swears by the gold of the temple is bound by that oath.' You blind fools! Which is greater: the gold, or the temple that makes the gold sacred? You also say, 'If anyone swears by the altar, it means nothing; but anyone who swears by the gift on the altar is bound by that oath.' You blind men! Which is greater: the gift, or the altar that makes the gift sacred? Therefore, anyone who swears by the altar swears by it and by everything on it. And anyone who swears by the temple swears by it and by the one who dwells in it. And anyone who swears by heaven swears by God's throne and by the one who sits on it.

"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former. You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel.

"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean.

"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean. In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.

"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You build tombs for the prophets and decorate the graves of the righteous. And you say, 'If we had lived in the days of our ancestors, we would not have taken part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.' So you testify against yourselves that you are the descendants of those who murdered the prophets. Go ahead, then, and complete what your ancestors started!

"You snakes! You brood of vipers! How will you escape being condemned to hell?