

Pride:

An excessive preoccupation with self



Pride is a problem for all of humanity and has been since Satan told Adam and Eve that they could be like God if they listened to him. There are many definitions of pride and many ways to look this characteristic that sometimes is applauded, but often viewed with disdain - especially, when we see pride in another person. We tend to think of the prideful person as the haughty, arrogant person who thinks they are better than everyone else. But there is a broader definition of pride that tends to affect us all! That *excessive preoccupation with self* can be seen in the person who gets impatient with others and doesn't have long-suffering for their spouse or others. It also can be seen in the insecure or fearful person who is focused on themselves and how they don't measure up or focused on *their* fears. It's been said that true humility isn't thinking less of your SELF, but thinking of your SELF less. Pride can be thinking more of yourself, but it is primarily thinking of yourself more - more concerned about yourself than about what the Lord thinks of you or of what He wants of you.

Pride is an enormous problem in marriage; perhaps the number ONE problem in marriage. We get stuck on ourselves; what we want or don't want - focusing on ourselves rather than on our spouse. What is love? According to 1John 3:16; it is *giving* of ourselves - dying to self and thinking about others first. We are NOT dying to self when we make life about us; whether it is our insecurities and fears or our impatience and "desire" for people do what is right. It is interesting that there are four Proverbs talking about there being *a way that seems right* to mankind, but *that* way leads only to pain and even death. The fortified marriage is not prideful individually or as a couple. In fact, pride should not be seen in any Christian's life.

No one wants to be around the obviously prideful and arrogant person, but what about those of us who make life about ourselves in subtle ways? *An excessive preoccupation with self* can manifest in many different ways and is *always* an affront to our Lord and Savior. Honestly look at your life; do you tend to be focused on yourself more than your spouse? Family, friends, others you come in contact with? Jesus was first about His Father's business and then about others. If we are going to call ourselves "Christ-followers," we should also have that mind-set. Paul wrote in 1Corinthians 13:5 that we are to *examine ourselves* - this isn't about pointing out the pride in your spouse, but looking honestly at yourself and seeing if there is any of that ugliness in yourself. I would highly recommend Ronald McDonald's article below. It may be long, but it deals well with every aspect of pride - I pretty much guarantee you will see yourself somewhere in there - I saw myself there...

Helpful Resources: *Fortified Marriages Resource page: www.fortifiedmarriages.com - the Fortified Marriages Manual and Workbook is a great tool to help better love our spouse.*

Articles to Check Out:

The Secretly Prideful Person by Ronald McDonald

10 Warning Signs of Pride in Marriage by Kevin Thompson

2 Strong Ways to Fight Pride in Marriage by Tiffany Montgomery