

# The Great I am - 3

## The Nature and Consequences of Pride

Brief recap of last week.

The Hebrew and Greek words for pride can be defined as ...

Majesty, pomp, swelling, elation, surging, glory, conceit, eminence, boastful, pretention, arrogance, haughtiness.

**These are really all just forms of SELF DELUSION.**

- All just forms of “The Great I AM!”

### Dictionary Definition:

A high opinion of one's own dignity, importance, merit, or superiority, whether <sup>1)</sup> cherished in the mind or <sup>2)</sup> as displayed in bearing or conduct.

...

**Psalms 36:1-2** <sup>1</sup> I have a message from God in my heart concerning the sinfulness of the wicked:

There is no fear of God before their eyes.

For <sup>2</sup> In their own eyes they flatter themselves too much to detect or hate their sin.

Die clicks hieronder moet asb aan die einde begin en dan terug werk  
Met ander woorde ...

- 1) → Wicked
- 2) → Don't Fear God
- 3) → Don't Hate
- 4) → Don't Detect

Don't Detect → Don't Hate → Don't Fear God → The Wicked

...

So the opposite of this would be.

Die clicks hieronder moet asb aan die einde begin en dan terug werk  
Met ander woorde ...

- 1) → The Righteous
- 2) → Reverent Fear
- 3) → Hate
- 4) → Detect

Detect → Hate → Reverent Fear → The Righteous

We looked at three Symptoms

1. You don't think you are prideful.
2. You are not a relentless learner
3. Self-pity

Today we are going to look at some more

### 1. You have No Room

We all know the story of Jesus birth.

- How Joseph and Mary went down to Nazareth.

**Luke 2:6–7** <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup> and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Have ever thought about that?

- Jesus was born in a stable, because people didn't have room for him.

Is it any different today?

**Psalm 10:4** "In his pride the wicked man does not seek him; in all his thoughts, there is **No Room** for God."

This "No Room for God" can be expressed in two ways.

1. Inwardly and silently, and the other ...
2. Outwardly and blatantly.

Let me start with the outward and blatantly ...

- And then I will move to the inwardly and silently.

### Outward & Blatantly

- Listen, I live however I want to.
- I do whatever I want to.
- If I want to sleep around, I do it.
- If I want to get drunk, I do it!
- I want to use bad language I use it.
- IT IS IN YOUR FACE!

Inwardly and "Silently."

What does this “No Room for God” look like inwardly.

- Inwardly and silently is obviously a lot more subtle.
- And therefore in my mind, a lot more dangerous.

It could be ...

- When it is convenient I will send for you.
  - Not at this time in my life ...
  - I need to first ...
  - But when trouble comes, you better be there.
  
  - What am I saying though all this?
  - NO ROOM!!!!
- It could be ignoring the word and the spirit.
  - You know that God primarily speaks to you through his word ...
  - But it is not important to you.
- You obviously won't say that, you would rather say things like ...
  - O, I would have loved to but ...
  - To much school work, just ...
- It could be Genie in a Bottle. (I am your God.)

Why is there no Room for God?

- Because the Great I am does not make room for others.
- The Great I am lives for him or herself.
- They live for their dreams, their desires, their pleasure and their comforts ...

As it says in **Romans 1:25** “They exchanged the truth about God for a lie ...”

- The truth that joy and peace and belonging and purpose ...
- Can only be found in him ...

They exchange the truth about God for the lie of ...

- Joy, peace, belonging and purpose ...
- Can be found in the here and now.

They ... **worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator ...**

Why would they do that?

**... For they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God ...”**

Why would that not think it worthwhile.

- Because there is only place for The One and Only, Great I AM.

## 2. Being overly Opinionated

Who of us knows someone who is overly Opinionated?

- Who of us are that person?

Again, this can be expressed

- Outwardly and blatantly or
- Inwardly and silently.

**'The prudent keep their knowledge to themselves, but a fool's heart blurts out folly.'**  
**Proverbs 12:23**

**"... a fools heart** (because that is where pride lies) **BLURTS out FOLLY!"**

- A fool cannot keep their mouth shut, they have to get it out.
- They have to show everyone that they always know better.
- They cannot help themselves.
- They have to show every that they are a fool

Me

- I have been guilty of this a lot more than I would like to admit.
- Share opinion as if it is bible.

**"Even as fools walk along the road, they lack sense and show everyone how stupid they are."** **Ecclesiastes 10:3**

You think you are so clever.

- But in actual fact you are just showing everyone around you ...
- How Stupid you are.

There is a Hebrew Proverb that says, **'Teach thy Tongue to say – I don't know.'**  
**Hebrew Proverb**

So what do you think of this?

- I don't know?

What do you think of our Worship as a Church?

- I don't Know? Great.

Now, let me just say this.

- Because you are clever enough to keep your mouth shut.
- Doesn't mean you are humble.

"For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he..." Proverbs 23:7 (KJV)

You are what you are, in your heart.

I think we need to adjust that Hebrew proverb from ...

- 'Teach thy Tongue to say – I don't know.' Hebrew Proverb
- To ... "Teach thy **HEART** to say - I don't know."
- So I am not just zipping it and biting my tongue.

No, my heart is saying, you know what? I actually don't know.

### 3. Self-Righteous

Matthew 7:3–5

You are constantly Critical of Others.

- Some do it outwardly, some inwardly.

Constantly thinking of how others can change.

- How my wife can be a better wife.
- Kids better kids.
- Leader better leader.
- Colleague be better colleagues.
- ...

You are like the MORAL POLICE!

- Particularly in the church.

Constantly making judgments on the lives of others.

- It is usually a Sign of Self-Righteousness and a sign of Pride.

In this passage Jesus asks two questions of the Self-Righteous.

The first is **WHY?**

**Matthew 7:3** “**Why** do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?

Why? Why do you want to do that?

- Why are you so Consumed with the Speck in the other person’s eye?
- Why does it Bothers you so much?
- Why is it so Frustrating to you?
- Why do you feel like you have to comment on it ...?
- (Even if it is just in your own mind?)
- Why? Why do you do that?

He is not saying it is wrong to notice things in other ...

- As we will see shortly, he is not even saying you shouldn’t bring it up.

What he does say, is that before you bring up anything with anyone.

- You first need to ask the WHY question.
- Why is what they are doing causing so much tension in me?

What does it say about me?

- What does my feelings about what you are saying or doing ...
- Or, who I perceive you to be, actually say about me?

Why does it stir up so much anger, so much self-righteousness?

- Is it jealousy?
- ...
- 

2<sup>nd</sup> Question – **HOW?**

**How** can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye?

Jesus says, I am just a little bit confused here?

- How can you do that?
- Help me Understand this?

You have this thing in your Eye.

- And, it is a Big thing. It is a Plank.

Imagine someone walking into the service with a plank in their eye.

- And they walk over to you...
- And they say, you have something in your teeth.

Wouldn't you sort of think, dude, you have a plank in your eye.

- Thank for the thing in my teeth.
- But I am not sure if you have looked in the mirror.
- But, there is a plank.

Jesus says, How? How can you do that?

- As in ... There is actually something wrong with you.

Jesus is saying that whenever we want to bring up something with someone.

- Whether verbally or in your mind.
- (Because penguins have a lot of conversations with themselves.)

We need to ask ourselves those two questions first.

1. WHY? Why is it bothering me?

- The level of frustration that I am experiencing.
- Is that saying anything about me?

2. What is the current condition of my own soul?

- Do I have "plank" in my own eye?

And if so, I need to ask myself ...

3. How am I managing to focus on your speck?

- When all the while there is a plank in my own eye?

<sup>5</sup> You hypocrite, **first** take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye."

He is not saying that we should not speak about the speck.

- He is saying, first take out the Plank.
- Because once you have taken out the plank.
- (And put it down and move away from it.)
- You will be able to see more clearly.

If you do this first, you will be able to be more helpful.

- Because you will have a gracious & helpful spirit ...
- Verses a self-righteous one.

#### **4. You don't Love Correction**

What is it like to Correct you?

Now remember the Temptation.

- Don't think of someone else.
- We are talking about you.

What is it like to Correct you?

- If they see and think I most probably need to bring it up.
- What runs through their mind?

a) You going to be Defensive

- Please take this cup away from me Lord?
- God give me Courage... I am going to Need it.
- Do they 1<sup>st</sup> go to gym to first beef up.

b) You are going to feel sorry for yourself.

- Sulking; Brewing; Silent treatment; Disappearance.

c) You are going to smile, wave and ignore.

d) You are going to be incredibly grateful.

- Ask some questions to gain understanding.
- ...

Again, what is it like correcting you?

- That is not something that we can Answer.
- Need to go to others and ask them?
- Spouse, kids, friends.
- What is it like correcting me?

How we Respond to Input in our Lives says a lot about us.



“Like an earring of gold or an ornament of fine gold is a wise man’s rebuke to a listening ear.” Proverbs 25:12

The humble views correction as a Gift.

<sup>12</sup>And a wise friend’s timely reprimand is like a gold ring slipped on your finger.  
(MSG)

Think of someone Giving you a Gift.

- How do you Respond to a Physical Gift?

The Humble Person is saying...

- Thank you so much for bringing that up.
- I know it must have been Hard for you.
- Knowing who I am... It most probably took a lot of Prayer.
- I know you could just have just Dropped it, but you didn’t.

How does the Proud respond to Correction?

“A fool finds no pleasure in understanding but delights in airing his own opinions.”  
Proverbs 18:2 and one can add “Delights in feeling sorry for themselves.”

You bring up something with a Fool.

- No Pleasure!
- a) Defensive
  - Wants to be understood.
  - Wants to explain.
- b) Feel sorry
  - Poor me, I try so hard ...
- c) Just ignore

We have to get to the Point where we can say.

- Slip on that Ring brothers.
- Slip on that Ring sister.

## 5. You Live Under the Illusion that you are in Control of your Life

Lets be Honest.

- Who of us actually think that we are in Control of our own lives.

**"In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps." Proverbs 16:9**

In his heart a man plans his coarse.

- This is what I am going to do and this is my future...
- This is how I am going to do it.
- I am going to get married, have 2.3 kids.
- I am going to get this job
- Because, if it is to be it is... Up to me.
- And I am Driven, read 7 Habits of Highly Effective People.
- I am in Charge of my own Destiny.

**"...but the Lord directs his steps."**

How do you make God laugh?

- Tell Him your Plans.

This is what I am going to do in the next 5 years.

My talk with Dave

- It is Hard to Give up Control.

It is an Illusion.

- A number of us are Struggling to let go.
- I want to ask, let go of what.
- You are not in Control.

God determines your Steps.

Going to touch on ... and then unpack ...

**1. Toying with Sin**

- If your hand causes you to sin.

**2. Manipulation and control.**

- Other people are pawns on your chess board.
- Can me in your face or silent treatment etc.

**3. Self-consumed**

- Wherever you are, you do most of the talking.