

GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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Who Determines Our Self-Worth?

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God says, “*Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall*” (Proverbs 16:18). We have all met people with large egos, even some who have a bit of narcissism in their personality. We have probably even tried to avoid some of them. We steer clear of them because we perceive their world will probably not have room for us. So, when we evaluate our own self worth we need to ask how our pride affects that determination. We know a healthy sense of self is essential, but we do not want to live the selfish life of the narcissist.

One of the definitions of narcissism is egotism. Egotism is defined as “an exaggerated sense of self-importance.” another definition of narcissism is “The love of one’s self.” This all has to do with pride, and the instinctive feeling that we are our own masters, that we have all power over our lives and are able to make all the life changing decisions that affect us through out our lives. Unfortunately people that have either of these behaviors in their personalities generally aren’t just satisfied with being their own master, but attempt to “master” or

control others as well.

Most of us, when reminded of how frail we really are, or of how small we really are in the over all scheme of things, either keep or at least try to keep our egos in check. We submit ourselves to God, and give the credit and praise to the Lord for any and all successes we achieve, reasoning that the Lord does know all and is behind all. We understand the meaning of “pride goes before a fall” is more than a saying your mom used to correct your behavior, but a quote from the Bible and a biblical truth.

This doesn’t mean we shouldn’t have a love for self, or we could not fulfill the command: “*Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself*” (Matthew 22:39). We can be proud of our heritage, our families, our country, or be proud of the fact that we’re Christians. There is a natural feeling of our self worth in our surroundings, but it should always be tempered with the fact that the Lord knows us and our frailties, and having given us free will of choice, warns us about pride.

In Mark 7:15 to 23, Christ explains to his disciples the par-

able, *that there is nothing from without the man, that going into him can defile him; but the things which proceed out of the man are those that defile the man.* Out of the listed sins, there is pride which can proceed from within and hinder our ability to be productive in proper behavior. Respecting this scripture, we find that our ego or pride can cause us to stumble when there is no restraint applied to these particular behavioral traits.

Our self worth is often mirrored in the circumstances that tend to mold and shape our thoughts and lives. It is exposed by the events that teach us about ourselves, which transpire through out our lives influencing not only our own personality but affecting our families and brethren as well. We, as Christians, have elected to humbly put our lives physically and spiritually in the hands of God, asking him for all things, and knowing that the Lord in answering prayers guides us through life and our life after death.

He expects us to be ever vigilant in maintaining a healthy perception of self. It will affect our relationship with God, our brethren, and our fellow man.