**Pride & Selfishness**

Luke 18:11

We see a Pharisee who puts himself above others for sure!

One of the problems with pride is we can see it in others, but not ourselves.

Romans 2:21 says “You who teach others, do you not teach yourself?”

**Different Expressions of Pride:**

* Pride or Moral Self-Righteousness
  + Feeling morally superior with respect to other people
  + When someone feels they have the higher moral ground than others
  + Example: Politics – one side believes there belief/policy is better than the other sides
  + More common than you would think
  + To guard ourselves from it:
    - We must seek an attitude of humility (God Grace takes us where we need to go)
    - Identify ourselves before God with the sinful society we live in. Ezra 7:10 & Ezra 9:6
* Pride of correct doctrine
  + Whatever my beliefs are, they are the correct ones, and anyone who holds another belief is theologically inferior
  + We are not spiritually superior to others who hold other beliefs
  + Myself – growing up in a Pentecostal Home until I was about 8, but continued to be around it, & then switching to Baptist. Coming from a line of Methodist Ministers. Whose doctrine is correct? Struggles….
  + 1 Corinthians 8:1 – Knowledge puffs us up…. Love BUILDS us up
* Pride of Achievement
  + Success is important! Proverbs 13:4 – the diligent soul is richly supplied
  + Many scriptures teach us that success and achievement are under the sovereign control of God (1 Samuel 2:7, Psalm 75:6-7, Haggai 1:5-6)
  + Some people struggle to be successful, some it comes easy. Like taking a test. Some have to study for days to get a passing score… Some can take an hour and ace it. Whatever the case may be, its not why or how,…its WHAT we do…We MUST look to God to achieve what he wants us to achieve in the way HE see’s fit!
  + Acknowledge God in Achievement!!
  + Recognition is GREAT, when GOD is in the reason
* Pride of an Independent Spirit
  + Can include resisting authority and an unteachable attitude
  + The idea that we think we know everything (I struggle with this one)
  + Hebrews 13:17 – Obey leaders, submit to them – they will give an account how they lead
  + Proverbs teaches us to desire learning and wisdom from God and others.
  + Prayer!!!!

**SELFISHNESS**

Selfishness Test

Q: When we are in a conversation with someone, do we talk more about ourselves OR seek listening to the other person?

* This is a symptom of self-centeredness and unthoughtfulness
* At its’ extreme self-centered people care little about the interests, needs, or desires of others. 2 Timothy 3:1-5 gives a list of ugly sins that will be increased in the last days… among them are “Lovers for Self”
* Have you noticed cancel culture and the increases of people being offended? “I” AM OFFENDED, “I” don’t like that about you – so your cancelled.
* Selfishness and TIME. Time is limited and precious. Whose time is more important? Happens in the HOME a lot
* Selfishness and MONEY. Who needs more money?
  + Did you know in 2010 Americans only gave less than 2% of their income to charitable and religious causes. America is actually the richest nation in the world….
  + Where are we giving? Why are we giving? How do we give? Etc..
  + 1 John 3:17
* Selfishness and INCONSIDERATENESS.
  + Thinking about our actions and how they impact other peoples lives
  + Being inconsiderate about other feelings. I’ve seen Christians not give a tip to a waitress/waiter who by proven studies, are the most hard-working and finically needy individuals.
  + Saying what you think is not always the right attitude
  + Want to be unselfish – look no further than Jesus Christ. 2 Corinthian 8:9.
  + Living unselfishly will cost us time and money. It will cost us becoming interested in the interests, concerns, and needs of others. It will also cost us in learning to be considerate to others.
  + Ask the Holy Spirit to show you evidences of selfishness in your life.