

# **GOS Series-07**

## **The First Lord's Supper**

### **John 13.1-17**

Tonight in Luke 22:24 we go back to THE Lord's Supper<sup>1</sup>, by that I mean the first, the original, and the model for us from Jesus Christ Himself to us His Church.

On the night of the first Lord's Supper, Jesus models an attitude what we must choose to have each time we come to His Table. Do you remember:

### **The Problem They Faced**

On the evening of the Last Supper there was a problem among His disciples that Jesus had to address.

While Satan waited at the door, while the High Priest plotted for His life, and while the Roman cross stood not far away, a greater priority than all others was Christ's—His disciples had to learn what genuine love was all about.

The hearts of His disciples contained: unforsaken selfishness, disagreements, contentions, jealousies, impatience, and ambition; and none of those are acceptable at Christ's Table.

Listen to Luke 22:24

*"Now there was also a dispute among them, as to which of them should be considered the greatest. "*

The Passover meal was about to start, but no one was willing to take the lowest job. In a home without slaves, someone (usually the lowest in rank) had to take a basin and wash feet before the meal. None of the disciples felt like serving that night.

During the long meal in reclining couches feet would be near faces. Dirty feet would distract, so would dirty hearts. So Jesus addressed their hearts as He washed their feet.

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<sup>1</sup> 040408PM Passover LS John 13:1-17

Jesus girded Himself as the slave. Jesus knelt before all of His men and took the lowest place.

The picture they got of Jesus was burned into their hearts forever. Peter wrote of it, John wrote of it, and they talked so much about it that Paul even describes that humble servant attitude and action of Jesus.

What was Christ's answer to their selfishness? His Love.

What was Christ's cure for their selfish ambition? His love.

## **Christ's Last Supper Message to Us**

As we turn to John 13, we enter into that night of nights. It is Christ's last night on earth. It is Passover time and the Seder meal that both Christ and His disciples had participated in from their earliest childhood. Tonight the disciples came troubled, unfocused, arguing, and out of step with Jesus. They had everything on their minds but Him.

That is the constant struggle that He had with them.

- They thought of Earth as He talked of Heaven.
- They thought of others as He pointed to them.
- They were self focused when He asked for them to think of others.

John 13 is Christ's lesson on how to prepare for meeting Him at His Supper. Jesus teaches a life-changing lesson on the choices we must make in order to have a wonderful evening dining with Him and enjoying the blessings of a meal with God.

This night is the night that marks the first Communion; and as we look back we see it was a night defined by love.

***VIDEO: Now listen and watch, as we see John 13:1-17.***

The picture of love is nowhere more clearly seen than in Jesus on His knees washing His disciple's feet. Not just the good, He also washed the bad. Not just the loyal, He also washed the traitor's. Of all the pictures of Jesus this is the most compelling.

## **Ways to be Like Jesus**

There are three vital elements that John 13.1-17 presents to us. These three elements should be on our minds and hearts each time we have the privilege to meet across the Supper Table of Communion with God.

What did Jesus model for us, that we should also do?

1. Jesus demonstrates **how we get dressed** for the Lord's Supper (with a loving attitude).
2. Jesus demonstrates **how we get prepared** for the Lord's Supper (with a cleansed life).
3. Jesus demonstrates **how we get the most** at the Lord's Supper (with a serving heart).

Look back with me over these verses in John 13:1-17:

v. 1 Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end (**lit. 'to the limits' – the ultimate love was what Jesus demonstrated**).

v. 2 And supper being ended, the devil having already put it (**lit. 'to throw or cast' like the fiery darts'**) into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him, 3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, 4 rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself (**Peter never forgot this and at the end of his life was commanding all believers to follow Christ's example in 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 5.5**). 5 After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. 6 Then He came to Simon Peter. And Peter said to Him, "Lord, are You washing my feet?"

v. 7 Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this." 8 Peter said to Him, "You shall never wash my feet!" Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me." (**This does not mean, "Unless you are baptized you cannot be saved," but, "Unless I wash your sins away by My atoning death (cf. Rev. 1:5) you have no real relationship to Me" 1 John 1:7).**<sup>2</sup>

v. 9 Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head!" 10 Jesus said to him, "He who is bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you." 11 For He knew who would betray Him; therefore He said, "You are not all clean." 12 So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? 13 You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. 14 If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. 15 For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. 16 Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. 17 If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

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<sup>2</sup>Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. 1983-c1985. *The Bible knowledge commentary : An exposition of the scriptures*. Victor Books: Wheaton, IL

## Did You Dress Properly For the Lord's Supper?

First, Jesus demonstrates the **Proper Dress for the Lord's Supper** (clothed with a loving attitude). As Paul tells us, in Colossians 3:12-14, we are to dress ourselves, put on like a garment, Christ's love.

- **Love is not optional, but mandatory.** John 13:34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.
- **Lovelessness prompts all disobedience by believers; love prompts all true obedience.** John 14:15, 21 "If you love Me, keep My commandments; 21 He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."
- **Love is the seal of the Holy Spirit.** Romans 5:5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.
- **Love is supreme.** 1 Corinthians 16:14 "Let all that you do be done with love." All means all, so everything a Christian does should be done in love. Correct theology can't substitute for genuine love. Ministry can't substitute for love. Nothing can take the place of this need for genuine love.
- **Love must be practically demonstrated to be real.** 1 John 3:17-18 But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? 18 My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.
- **Love is the proof of salvation.** 1 John 4:7-8 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

## Did You Bathe Properly For the Lord's Supper?

Second, Jesus demonstrates how we are to prepare ourselves for the Lord's Supper (prepared by a cleansed life).

- In I John 1:9 we see that as we continually keep short accounts by confessing our sins, we are constantly cleansed to enjoy the blessings of forgiveness.
- When someone we love deeply like one of our children sins against us by disobeying or dishonoring us – we are still related to them as their father or

mother. We are always wanting and waiting to forgive them. But the closeness that we had before the sin can't return until that sin is confessed and forgiven.

- As families are distant where the simple restoration of confession and forgiveness is not present, so it is with us as believers. If you feel far from God tonight He invites you to come and receive the cleansing of forgiveness.
- How willing is Jesus to forgive? He kneels before you, girded with the apron of a slave waiting to wash and cleanse us tonight,

***VIDEO: Now watch the rest of that night that Jesus shared with His disciples.***

Before we celebrate the same meal that Jesus asked them to continue as a reminder of His sacrifice, let me ask each of you gathered at His Table:

## **Are You Getting the Most at The Lord's Supper?**

Jesus demonstrates how we get the most at the Lord's Supper (with a serving heart). Christ's actions must have deeply impacted Peter, because his memory of the humility of Jesus gets captured in I Peter 5. Turn there with me as we prepare (like they failed to do).

- Peter actually calls all of us to be like Jesus. He says "clothe yourselves (imperative as in a command) with humility toward one another" (1<sup>st</sup> Peter 5.5). The word 'clothe' is the word for a slave putting on the apron of service.
- As long as we think that we are better than any other human – we do not have Christ's heart and attitude.
- As long as we think our way is better, our ideas superior, or ministry more important, our gift more vital – then we are not prompted by the Spirit, but by our own flesh.
- As long as we grasp as ours – our life, our position, our power, our rights, our ways, we are not pleasing to the One who loves us and gave Himself for us.
- Jesus did not grasp His place as the "Christ the Highest Heaven adored' as the carol states it – He humbled Himself. Nothing will expose the flesh more than an attempt at godly, self-sacrificing humility. All that we are humanly will rebel at the act.

Jesus is showing His disciples they were running their own lives – and not Him.

Either we walk in our flesh or in His Spirit. Our flesh gets hurt, our flesh gets upset, and our flesh gets angry – not the Spirit of God.

The humility of Christ's washing the feet of His disciples should be the attitude we his children should also display. But foot washing that night was more than a living portrait of humility -- it was a reminder that we need lifelong cleansing.

Jesus was portraying the ongoing cleansing we need as believers through Christ's sacrifice. The powder dust of the roads of Christ's day soiled everyone's feet. On rainy days it turned to mud. Each home had a place for sandaled feet to be cleansed. Dirty feet portray life tainted by sin as live in this world.

When Jesus explained to Peter that only his feet were dirty, He showed us that sin never makes us lost as believers. He actually gave the greatest assurance that we can't lose our salvation by getting into sin once we have been saved. Our justification at the moment of our new birth is not undone by any sin. Nor do we need it repeated. But to walk in holiness and fellowship with Jesus we need to be regularly washing our spiritual feet.

Every day as we pray we need to agree with the Lord that our feet are soiled and only He can give us the cleansing that forgiveness brings.

Any dirt (un-confessed sins) will remove our enjoyment of the benefits of salvation which are joy, peace, and communion with the Lord.

In the prayer that Jesus taught His disciples "forgive us" is a reminder we need to plead to God through Christ's blood shed for us, for moment by moment cleansing because we confess our sins to Him.

So how do you look in His sight as you come to the Table?

- Are you dressed for the Lord's Supper with a loving attitude?
- Are you prepared for the Lord's Supper with a cleansed life?
- Have you looked upon others at the Lord's Supper with a serving heart?

John 13 is Christ's lesson on how to prepare for meeting Him at His Supper. Jesus teaches a life-changing lesson on the choices we must make in order to have a wonderful evening dining with Him and enjoying the blessings of a meal with God.

**The next time** you feel someone has ignored or slighted you—think of Jesus on His knees washing YOUR feet.

**The next time** you think that you are better than someone, look down and see Jesus, the Lord of Glory—on His knees washing YOUR feet and ask Him to give you His love anew and afresh.

And **the next time** that you feel far away, cold and distant from God—look down, there He is, still there, towel and basin ready. Jesus waits for your foot, He wants to wash and restore you to complete, heartwarming, and life altering closeness to Him.

He's kneeling and waiting, let's respond to Him today!  
Duet; Benediction from the pew at the end

# Appendix:

## Humbled Living Keeps God from Resisting Us!

James 4 and I Peter 5

No matter what else we do in life, if humility is not ours, then God will resist everything we do<sup>3</sup>.

God is in a moment-by-moment personal warfare against pride in the life of believers.

Pride is the sin God **hates** most, **sees** first, and **wants** us to likewise hate.

If we are not consciously humbling ourselves daily, hourly, and moment-by-moment, then we are losing the battle with pride. That brings us to the goals of the humbled believer's life...

### He Must Increase

Please turn with me to John 3, follow along as I read from v.22-30!

*John 3:22-30 After this, Jesus and his disciples went out into the Judean countryside, where he spent some time with them, and baptized. 23 Now John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because there was plenty of water, and people were constantly coming to be baptized. 24 (This was before John was put in prison.) 25 An argument developed between some of John's disciples and a certain Jew over the matter of ceremonial washing. 26 They came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, that man who was with you on the other side of the Jordan—the one you testified about—well, he is baptizing, and everyone is going to him." 27 To this John replied, "A man can receive only what is given him from heaven. 28 You yourselves can testify that I said, 'I am not the Christ but am sent ahead of him.' 29 The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom's voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete. 30 He must become greater; I must become less.*

The key to God's attention is humility.

The pathway to being constantly showered with grace is humility.

The heart attitude that leads to humility is summed up by John's testimony, "Christ must increase and I must decrease".

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<sup>3</sup> 070703 Humble Worshipers



Can you say this morning that those words are your heart's desire? "I want Christ to increase and for me to decrease".

Have you come to the place in your life as a believer where you want to increase Christ's attitude as your's decreases?

Christ's actions increase through you as your selfish actions decrease?

Christ's gracious words increase in your mouth as your words decrease?

Christ's desires and passions increase in you and your fleshly passions and desires decrease? "Christ must increase and I must decrease". That is the essence of humility.

Humility produces spiritual blessing. Just as every sin starts in pride, every virtue begins in humility. Humility allows us to see ourselves as we are, because we see God as He is.

Just as pride is behind every conflict we have with other people and every problem of fellowship we have with the Lord, so humility is behind every harmonious human relationship, every spiritual success, and every moment of joyous fellowship with the Lord.

The greatest plague on earth is pride. More people miss heaven for pride than any other sin.

All conflicts and troubles have flowed downward from pride. The source of every gossip, every hurt feeling, every church division, every departed sheep is pride. At the heart of every fight is pride.

## **God Resists us when we Have Pride in our Life**

God is at war against any and all pride He sees in our lives. Both Peter and James warn us of this ongoing "pride-resisting" that God promised.

Open with me to James 4.

*James 4:6, 10 But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God **resists** the proud, But gives grace to the humble." 10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.*

*1 Peter 5:5 Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God **resists** the proud, But gives grace to the humble."*

Why is God so opposed to pride? Because it reflects Satan's rebellion!

As God's servants we are to live a life that worships God. But while we are living a life of worship we are being stalked by the most deadly and harmful predator in existence. His

name is Satan our Adversary. His goal is to devour us, making us stop serving and worshipping God.

That is the warning we see in God's Word. And what does God say is our protection from being devoured? Of all things it is HUMILITY!

*1 Peter 5:5-9 Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and **be clothed with humility**, for "**God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.**" 6 Therefore **humble yourselves** under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, 7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. 8 Be sober, be vigilant; because **your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.** 9 **Resist him**, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.*

The word Peter uses for "humility" is Strong's # 5012 tapeinophrosune { tap-i-nof-ros-oo'-nay}; n f; 7 x KJV; GK - 5425 {tapeinofrosuvnh} = having a humble opinion of one's self, a deep sense of one's littleness, modesty, humility, lowliness of mind<sup>4</sup>

Resisting the devil starts with humility (a deep sense of my littleness and God's greatness); when you resist pride you are resisting the devil's foothold in your life.

Isn't it amazing that the two most pointed passages about believers and pride also include a warning about spiritual warfare? Both James 4 and this passage in Peter, cite the devil and his constant warfare against us in the context of pride.

Pride opens the door of our lives to the devouring influence of Satan.

Pride makes me always do things my way; and often do them without first consulting with God by prayer. That is the essence of self-driven rather than Spirit-led ministry. Waiting upon the Lord is abandoned and the energy of the flesh takes over; like blood in the water to sharks—so pride in the life of a believer is to the Devil.

We are resisting the devil only if we walk through life clothed in humility.

Humility not only closes the door to the prowling devil, it opens the door to worship. Nothing is more powerful about humility than the increased freedom in worship.

## **Worship, Humility, and God**

Remember how Paul described true believers as humble-worshipers? Those two, humility and worship seem to be tied. Look at Philippians 3:3.

*Philippians 3:3 For we are the circumcision, who **worship God** in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and **have no confidence in the flesh**,*

When Jesus spoke with the woman at the well in John 4, what did He say that God was seeking? **Worshippers!**

And when we get to the end of all things in Revelation, what does the Bible show us doing forever? **Worshipping!**

The conclusion of God's Word says all of us born-again believers in the Lord Jesus Christ be doing what one thing forever around God's Throne? Yes, endlessly offering humbly-adoring, reverently-lifted **worship!**

The atmosphere of Heaven is always servant-hearted, submission-prompted, humility-clothed worship.

Let those word pictures settle into your heart for a moment: the atmosphere of Heaven is always **servant**-hearted, **submission**-prompted, **humility**-clothed worship.

As a gathered body of believers in Christ's church, let's review each of those precious scenes describing our everlasting occupation from the last book of God's Word. Start with me in Revelation 1:17.

When John first sees Jesus as He is forever in Heaven, what is his response?

Immediate, collapsed-prostration of himself at Christ's feet, face down, unmoving as if dead! That is as humble a position as the human body is able to get!

*Revelation 1:17 And when I saw Him, **I fell at His feet as dead.** But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last.*

So as soon as John sees the Glorified and Majestic Christ of Heaven, he makes an immediate, collapsed-prostration of himself at Christ's feet, face down, unmoving as if dead! Again, for emphasis--**that is as humble a position as the human body is able to get!**

## **The Epicenter of the Universe is a Place of Humble Worship**

Moving past chapters 2-3 and the seven letters to the seven specific, literal churches of Asia Minor in Century One (and by the wonder of the inspired Scriptures, to all of us believers through all the ages since)—and arrive at God's Throne, the epicenter of the Universe, in Revelation chapter 4.

Revelation 4 gives us the description of the **atmosphere** of Heaven, the **protocol** God expects, the **reverence** John describes; and we can note that **worship clothed in humility** is the way worship is offered and received in the place where Jesus is magnified and adored.

The entire book of Revelation portrays the gift God seeks from each of us which I call humility clothed worship.

- *Worship clothed in humility* is the description of the **atmosphere** of Heaven;
- *Worship clothed in humility* is the **protocol** God expects;
- *Worship clothed in humility* is the **reverence** John describes, and
- *Worship clothed in humility* is the way worship is offered and received **in the place where God is magnified and adored**.

We already saw the verse in chapter one.

*Revelation 1:17 And when I saw Him, **I fell at His feet as dead**. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last.*

Now note some key words in the verses we just read in chapter 4.

*Revelation 4:9-10 "**Whenever** the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, **10** the twenty-four elders **fall down before Him** who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, **and cast their crowns before the throne...**"*

Humility is so apparent in both their positions (fall down before) and their actions (cast their crowns); because they are aware that God alone is responsible for any rewards they have received, they divest themselves of all honor and cast it at the feet of their King<sup>5</sup>.

So the immediate falling in collapsed-prostration humbly at Christ's feet, face down, in worship is ongoing.

Note John says "whenever" the four creatures make an offering of praise and worship to the Lord the response is "falling down"! How often do these four living creatures show up around the Throne offering praise and worship? Back up to the middle of verse 8 (4:8) and see the timing of this offering of worship and the resulting immediate response of the elders:

*Revelation 4:8 The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. **And they do not rest day or night, saying:** "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!"*

So this scene of worship and falling face down in obeisance is played out continuously 24/7 as we would call it in our round-the-clock busy world.

The atmosphere of **worship clothed in humility** as the way worship is offered and received in the place where Jesus is magnified and adored continues in Revelation 5.

*Revelation 5:8, 14 Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders **fell down before the Lamb**, each having a harp, and*

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<sup>5</sup> John F. MacArthur, Jr., *The MacArthur Study Bible*, (Dallas: Word Publishing) 1997.

golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. 14 Then the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the **twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever.**

The songs, doxologies, worship chants, and ascriptions of praise and worship to the Lord that are offered during this guided tour of Heaven are an education in themselves. Note the elements that are shown to us in the fourteen offerings of worship recorded in Revelation.

## The Worship Offerings of Revelation

<b>Reference</b>	<b>Those Offering Worship</b>	<b>Those Receiving Worship</b>
4:8	4 Living Creatures	1. God the Father
4:11 (3-fold)	24 Elders	2. God the Father
5:9-10	24 Elders + 4 Living Creatures	3. The Lamb (Christ)
5:12 (7-fold)	Many Angels	4. The Lamb (Christ)
5:13 (4-fold)	Every Creature	5. God the Father and the Lamb
7:10	Tribulation Martyrs	6. God the Father and the Lamb
7:12 (7-fold)	Angels, 24 Elders, and 4 Living Creatures	7. God the Father
11:16-18	24 Elders	8. God the Father
15:3-4	Tribulation Saints	9. God the Father and the Lamb
16:5-6	Angel	10. God the Father
16:7	"The Altar"	11. God the Father
19:1-3 (4-fold)	A Great Multitude	12. God the Father
19:4	24 Elders + 4 Living Creatures	13. God the Father
19:6-8	A Great Multitude	14. God the Father

Again this scene of worship and falling face down in obeisance is played out continuously 24/7 as we would call it in our round-the-clock busy world. From Revelation 4 to 22, seeing God's glory always makes God's servants want to get into **as humble a position as the human body is able to get!**

And there it is, we have traced through the entire book of Revelation the gift God seeks from each of us which I call humility clothed worship.

- *Worship clothed in humility* is the description of the **atmosphere** of Heaven;
- *Worship clothed in humility* is the **protocol** God expects;
- *Worship clothed in humility* is the **reverence** John describes, and
- *Worship clothed in humility* is the way worship is offered and received **in the place where God is magnified and adored.**

Humility is the most prominent feature of Heaven from our perspective as believers. Every believer we see in Heaven is constantly doing one thing over and over—falling on their faces before an Awesome God who alone is the One to be worship-worthy, adoration-receiving, and humility-receiving.

Pride is the supreme temptation from Satan, because pride is at the heart of his own evil nature. Our only protection against pride, and our only source of humility, is a proper view of God. We must understand that our pride is the sin of competing with God, and humility is the virtue of submitting to His supreme glory.<sup>6</sup>

## PRIDE IS AN EPIDEMIC

James Bjoanstad writes:

*At one time, most Christians believed that to have a close relationship with God, a person should magnify God, deny himself and the pleasures of this world, repent and confess his sins, and live a holy and separated life. Their heroes were missionaries who gave up everything to serve God and martyrs who suffered because of their faith.*

*Today, it's becoming a different story. Many Christians believe that to have a close relationship with God, a person should realize the importance of himself as God intended, pursue his dreams and aspirations, and become affluent and successful. Their heroes are those celebrities and self-made individuals who happened to be Christians.*

*Behind this new gospel stands a variety of distinguished teachers, preachers, and evangelists proclaiming a variety of ways to attain prosperity and success. But examining their theological models and points of emphasis reveals one common element--they are simply not biblical.<sup>7</sup>*

Why not do a spelling lesson with me?

Let's notice together that **I** is right in the middle of some very big things in life.

First spell "sin" with me: s-**I**-n.

Now spell "pride" with me: pr-**I**-de.

Now how about "anxiety": anx-**I**-ety.

Here is the best one, spell Satan's original name with me, it was "Lucifer", spell that with me: luc-**I**-fer.

So that **I** is in the middle of all my sins, all my pride, all my anxieties, and all the time doing the will of the Devil!

In James 4:6 and I Peter 5:5 the Greek tenses and words are powerfully the same. God is constantly Himself resisting the proud, but is constantly giving grace to the humble.

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<sup>6</sup> Adapted from MacArthur, New Testament Commentary, Ephesians 4:2.

<sup>7</sup> Moody Monthly, 11/86, p. 19-20.

The best way to be frustrated, discontent, and empty is pride. God resists the proud—always remember that! Our greatest enemy is pride and our greatest friend is humility.

The greatest conduit for God's grace is humility. So what we need to do is identify pride in our lives, humble ourselves in God's sight—and let Him pour out His grace upon all we do!

No matter what else you do in your life, if humility is not yours then God will resist everything else you and I do. God is moment-by-moment in a personal warfare against pride in the life of believers. It is the sin He hates most, sees first, and wants us to likewise hate.

## How To Identify My Pride

The best source of insight into pride is a biblically-prompted self-examination, asking honestly—which of these areas apply to me.

Pride always makes me think that the sermon was for someone else other than me—because I'm okay!

Pride makes me always critique church on the basis of "what I got" rather than "what I gave".

The Gospel is all about the reality that I am a failure because of sin and only Christ's becoming my Substitute and taking my sin, and guilt, and shame gives me any hope.

The Cross is a constant reminder on my own I am unable to do right, unable to stop sinning, and helpless to do anything about my weaknesses, fears, and problems. That is why God wants my...

## Pride Exposed

Pride makes me think of myself first and others second.

Pride makes me always look for **my name** on a list, always look for **my face** in a picture, and always look for **my presents** at a party.

Pride always makes me compare myself with others, excusing my failures while condemning theirs.

Pride makes me sensitive to how **I look**, how **I feel**, and defensive about what **I do**.

My pride also makes me expect special treatment, want to be in control, think my opinion is important, and always want to be right.

We have **proud attitudes**: pride makes me impatient, resentful, bitter,

We have **proud looks**: haughty looks, arrogant expressions,

We have **proud words**: they are angry words, belittling words, harsh words, harmful words, defiling words, thoughtless words, self-aggrandizing words... proud words dominate conversations, are boastful, critical, and argumentative,

We have **proud actions**: pride makes me **pushy** with my agenda, **nosy** about others business, a **gossiper** about others actions, **competitive** for my way, **obsessive** about my wants, **compulsive** for my needs, and **anxious** about the outcome when it relates to me.

My pride makes me want to be recognized and noticed.

My pride makes me proud of **my** looks, **my** travels, **my** education, **my** ministry, **my** Bible knowledge, **my** cooking skills, **my** decorating skills, **my** social skills, **my** social status—**or jealous of any of yours!**

My pride makes me: resentful when disrespected, while at the same time expecting recognition and respect.

My pride makes me discontent, restless, anxious, jealous, and selectively lazy. Pride makes me late for you but fumes when you are not early for me.

My pride doesn't want to wait, and doesn't want to try for fear of failure.

My pride makes me **exaggerate** my work, my opinion, my needs, my wants, my plans—while **minimizing** all of yours, and jealous if I can't.

My pride makes me break the rules, bend the rules, and impose my own rules on others—while resisting all of your rules.

My pride makes me resistant, hesitant, and belligerent towards other's ideas and leadership because I want my own way.

My pride makes me hold a grudge against you—and want to get even, while forgetting my similar failures, and then get angry when you get even with me.

My pride **always** remembers wrongs, **always** thinks it deserves better, and **always** wants more.

My pride makes me cover my sins while seeing other's faults first and clearest.

My pride wants the best seat, takes the best parking place, and won't wait in line.

My pride makes me need the best clothes, buy only the finest things for myself—but shop the bargain basement for others. So pride makes me always seek the best for myself—and not care about the needs of others.



My pride makes me **not like** my old car, always want a new car, and get **completely jealous** of you when you get **any** car.

My pride makes me either think my house is not good enough for me, or my house is better than yours.

My pride makes me buy the biggest house possible and then say it's just an investment without first asking where I have more invested—on earth or in Heaven.

My pride makes me buy things I can't afford, find reasons to not give, and do things I often regret.

My pride makes me **love money** and hate sacrifice; **love praise** and hate criticism; **love prosperity** and hate adversities.

My pride makes me **pursue** pleasures and **avoid** pain.

My pride makes me worry about what **I wear**, how **I look**, and what **others think**.

My pride makes me **never quite content** with my hair color, my skin color, my body weight, my physical condition, or my health. Pride will also makes me think my hair is **better** looking, my tan is **better** looking, my body is **better** looking than yours--or jealous if it's not!

My pride is when I get focused more on **my skin** than my heart, when I get focused more on **my hair** than my mind, when I get focused more on **my clothes** rather than being clothed with compassion and love, when I am more focused more on **my car** than serving Christ, and **my house** than on Heaven.

My pride makes me **resentful** when corrected; **hurt** when disappointed; **impatient** when hindered; **greedy** when given choices (remember Lot); **critical** when speaking of rivals; **jealous** when seeing others advancing in any way; **untruthful** when confronted; and **distant** when slighted.

My pride will make me exaggerate my accomplishments, possessions, and abilities while minimizing my faults, weaknesses, and deficiencies.

My pride makes me unthankful for others sacrifices, services, or gifts.

My pride makes me irritated at others, short with those I feel superior towards, and flattering towards those that can help me in some way.

My pride makes me driven with me agenda, hurried with others needs, and impatient with life.

My pride always makes me picky, finicky, touchy, choosey, nosey, and bossy. Pride makes me jealous of the strength of youth, and disdainful of the weaknesses of the elderly and incapacitated.

My pride makes me secretly rejoice in others catastrophes and sullenly endure my own.

My pride makes me think that I am vital and irreplaceable, and my life is so important--that I will do all I can to save my life and not lose it.

My pride makes me spiritually superficial, artificial, and critical.

My pride makes me think ***much about my life*** and gaining as much as I can and ***little about my death*** and my face-to-face appointment I have with Christ when I explain just what I did with my life.

My pride makes me prejudiced, bigoted, and calloused.

My pride makes me: self-reliant; self-absorbed; self-deceived; self-confident; self-conscious; self-sufficient; self-satisfied; self-focused; self-centered, and self-driven

My pride makes me ***unreliable*** (because you can't tell me what to do and when); ***unloving*** (because I won't sacrifice for you); ***unteachable*** (because you can't correct me), and ***competitive*** (because I will always try to outdo you)!

My pride makes me ***quick to speak*** and slow to hear; ***quick to anger*** and slow to forgive; ***quick to take*** and slow to give.

So what is God's solution to my pride? Just what God's Word always has always told us—

## **Humble Yourself in the Sight of God**

Back to James 4:6 and 10.

*James 4:6, 10 But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "**God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.**"<sup>10</sup> **Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.***

What can happen if we humbled ourselves in the sight of God?

There are several immediate results of a humbled life:

- Humbled believers spend far less money (because so much spending is prompted by pride) then we are able to fund greater and greater kingdom work.
- Humbled believers trim their schedules of what doesn't please God but just is selfish activity (prompted by our pride to keep up with everyone else) then we have more time for ministry because we'd do God's work first and our pleasures second.

- Humbled believers find God's Word attracts them more than their hobbies and pursuits because they've stopped living for self.

Humbled believers go to more mission fields and less spas; more prayer meetings and less shopping outlets.

Humbled believers kneel before God far more than they sit before their television; humbled believers communicate and lift their faces to God more than they update their Face Book and My Space pages.

Humility means I don't have to be asked nicely, reminded, and recognized before I'll serve Christ's church—rather I know that I am Christ's bondservant and I go around looking for ways to serve Him.

Humility takes the **attraction** away from sports, the **captivation** away from finances, and the **fascination** away from media as God's grace makes movies offensive to me—and God becomes more important than my entertainment.

Let's end by standing and singing "Worthy is the Lamb" because only He is worthy of our devotion—not us. Our pride is fighting against His Lordship and His Glory.

Then take 3 minutes to quietly humble ourselves before God.

You can sit, stand, kneel, come to the steps of the platform, or lay face down.

After 3 minutes I'll start us singing "Worthy is the Lamb" to close.