

# Set Free Update

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## THE PROBLEM OF PRIDE

Pride is an issue that usually needs to be confronted when doing biblical counseling and the steps to freedom in Christ. It was pride that caused the fall of Satan (Isaiah 14:12-14), and it is pride that lies at the root of our problems as well (Proverbs 16:18; I John 2:16). When my needs and my desires become my focus, I am unable to consider the needs and desires of others first (Romans 12:10; Philippians 2:3). This has devastating consequences in our relationships, in our marriages, and in our relationship to God.

Pride typically manifests in two ways: obvious pride and hidden pride (see John Regier, *Biblical Concepts in Counseling*). Obvious pride is self-focused and says, “Look at me. I know more, I can do more, I have more, I---, I---, I---. Hidden pride is more subtle in that it focuses on my inner pain, my feelings of inadequacy and rejection, my feelings of self-pity and not being appreciated or cared for. This kind of pride says, “I am the victim. I need---, I want---, I should have---.” Note that “I” is at the center of pride, whether obvious or hidden.

Since pride is self-focused, it tends to communicate rejection to others. It says, “You should think as I think. You should act the way I want you to act. You should feel as I want you to feel.” In other words, “Your thoughts, actions and feelings are unacceptable to me. Therefore, you are unacceptable. You need to change!” When pride and rejection are at the root of our communication style (verbal or non-verbal) in a marriage, love cannot flourish.



The biblical solution to the pride problem, of course, is humility. Love can only flourish when we follow Christ's example of servanthood and forbearance (I Peter 2:21). Can you picture a relationship built on humility and love? “Love...is not proud...is not self-seeking. Love never fails” (I Corinthians 13:4-8a).

by Arnie Dykstra

## TICK, TOCK, TICK, TOCK. . . .

Do you remember the clock ticking away as you wait for something? That's how it is in this earthly life. We are bound by time. We seemingly can wait for a long time for something, and we look at the clock wishing that the time would go faster, or it may appear like there was no waiting time at all. Consider this: *There will be no clock in heaven, because time shall be no more.* People will not be bound by time. In fact, no one will be bound by anything, except willingly loving God.

Here in this life, many times we are bound by many things, such as false guidance, believing lies, failing to forgive others, living in rebellion, responding in pride, failing to acknowledge our sin. These are the things that people struggle with as they come to Set Free Ministries for help. Looking at some of the statistics we have, we can see that there seems to be an ever increasing flow of people who struggle and are bound by one or more of those things. That led me to do some research on the reason why there are so many more people who are "bound".

I came across statements such as: "Every child in America entering school at the age of five is mentally ill because he comes to school with certain allegiances to our founding fathers, toward our elected officials, toward his parents, TOWARD A BELIEF IN A SUPERNATURAL BEING, and toward the sovereignty of this nation as a separate entity. It is up to you as a teacher to make all these children well--by creating the international child of the future." Psychiatrist Chester M. Pierce in his address to the Childhood International Education Seminar in 1967 states: "Man is an ethical animal; but his achievement of ethical awareness is not easy. This conflict is portrayed in that fascinating myth of the first man, the Biblical story of Adam. This ancient Babylonian tale, written and carried over into the Old Testament about 850 B.C., pictures how ethical insight and self-awareness are born at the same time. Are we to suppose that God wished to keep man in a state of innocence and psychological and ethical blindness? These implications are so out of keeping with the astute Psychological insight of the myth, that we must find some other explanation." (*From Rolo May, Ph.D., Man's Search for Himself, W.W. Norton Company, New York, 1953, Page 205*). No wonder with that kind of teaching going on we have the 60's - 80's children coming to us now as adults with a lot of wrong beliefs about God and the world He put us in. A lot of these people are confused and really hurting bad.

II Timothy 3:16,17 says: "All Scripture is God breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." This is what we at SFM try to do, teach, rebuke if necessary, correct and train people in doing the things that God requires of us as Christians. This is a huge task. We are asking for your help in doing this. First of all, we need PRAYER more than anything. We cannot function without prayer. If you would pray for us, please let us know by contacting our prayer coordinator, Mr. Lincoln Pupoh, at our office phone number. We also need volunteers for all kinds of work, from encouragers and prayer partners to office help. We also need your financial help. If you have the gift of giving, please do so now. Our cash balance is less than \$1,000 as of right now. Please help us by your prayer support, volunteer support, and financial support. Can we count on you?  
by Paul Taming

*The will of God will never take you, where the grace of God cannot keep you, where the arms of God cannot support you, where the riches of God cannot supply your needs, where the power of God cannot endow you, where the Spirit of God cannot work through you, where the wisdom of God cannot teach you, where the army of God cannot protect you, where the hands of God cannot mold you, where the love of God cannot enfold you, where the mercies of God cannot sustain you, where the peace of God cannot calm your fears, where the authority of God cannot overrule you, where the comfort of God cannot dry your tears, where the Word of God cannot feed you, where the miracles of God cannot be done for you, where the omnipresence of God cannot find you.*