**Destructive Pride**

*Proverbs 16:18*

**Introduction**

1. Pride is extremely destructive.
2. The primary reason for this is that pride is sinful (cf. Proverbs 21:4).
3. Sin will never be constructive. It always does damage.
4. However, pride is destructive for many reasons in addition to it being sinful. It is damaging to character and relationships.
5. We would be wise to subtract it from our lives.
6. Pride Destroys Humility

* Romans 12:16
  + A prideful individual is self-centered. As a result, he does not give time for service to others. (cf. Philippians 2:4).
  + We wonder why most celebrity marriages don’t last. They are so wrapped up in themselves with pride and arrogance that they neglect each other.
* 1 Peter 5:5-6
  + We are to be clothed with humility. Submitting to one another is an act of humility.

1. Pride Destroys Remorse for Sin

* Isaiah 57:15
  + A contrite heart and a humble spirit go hand in hand.
* James 4:6-10
  + When pride overtakes our hearts we lose perspective.
  + God is Lord and He reigns. We must submit to His will. The proud feel as though they are exempt.

1. Pride Destroys Generosity

* 1 Timothy 6:17-19
  + Pride gives a sense of entitlement. God has told us to be giving. This requires humility.
  + James 1:9-11 – Riches will fade away. The gospel levels the playing field because it is according to grace, and is spiritual rather than physical like riches.

1. Pride Hardens the Heart Against God

* Exodus 9:16-17
  + Pharaoh played a purpose in the God’s scheme.
  + He failed to realize God had put him where he was.
  + His position went to his head and he became prideful. This cause his heart to harden.
    - After seeing the plagues he still kept the Israelites.
  + Nebuchadnezzar had the same problem – Daniel 5:21
* Isaiah 40:21-23
  + God transcends us! We should be filled with humility.

1. Pride Destroys the Soul

* Proverbs 6:16-17
  + We cannot expect to get to heaven while being involved in something God hates.
* Luke 18:9-14
  + God has made it clear that all have sinned. We would do well to remember that.

**Conclusion**

1. Pride is destructive.
2. The inhabitants of the kingdom are the humble (Matthew 5:3 – *“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”*)
3. The prideful boast of knowledge and wisdom, but those that are wise are humble (cf. Proverbs 11:2).