

Doctrine of Arrogance

- 1) Preliminary considerations.
 - a) Within the canon of Scripture, the subject of arrogance is treated extensively.
 - b) Pride and arrogance was manifested in the angelic realm prior to human history (e.g. the fall of Satan, Ezek. 28:12-17).
 - c) Arrogance is a feeling or an impression of superiority manifested in an overbearing manner or presumptuous claims¹.
 - d) The one who is arrogant or prideful typically exhibits an attitude of superiority and disdain towards those he considers unworthy.
 - e) Synonyms and related terms in English include: pride, egotism, self-glory, self importance, conceit, haughtiness, disdain, etc.
 - f) Arrogance begins in the mental attitude under the influence of the OSN and is often manifested in overt behavior (e.g. boasting, cf. Mark 7:21-23).
 - g) Also, arrogance is demonstrated by disobedience to God's commandments (cf. Neh. 9:29).
 - h) Whether in the MA or through some overt exhibition, arrogance is unequivocally condemned in Scripture (cf. James 4:16, 1 Peter 5:5).
 - i) God punishes those who are arrogant, both unbelievers and believers (cf. Psa. 101:5, Prov. 16:5, 18).
- 2) Vocabulary.
 - a) Hebrew terms.
 - i) גִּאֹהַּ geah: pride, arrogance (Prov. 8:13).
 - ii) גָּהֵהּ geeh: pride, proud (Job 40:11-12, Isa. 2:12).
 - iii) גִּאֲוָהּ gaavah: haughtiness, pride, proud, proudly, swelling pride (Prov. 29:23, Isa. 13:11).
 - iv) גָּאוֹן gaon: arrogance, pride, proud, pomp. The term also has a good sense when used of God's eminence, majesty, excellence (Lev. 26:19, 23:9 cf. Isa. 2:10, 19, 21, Job 37:4).
 - v) גִּבְהִי gobah: haughty, haughtiness (Psa. 10:4, Prov. 16:5, 18).
 - vi) עָתָק athaq: forward, arrogant, arrogantly (1 Sam. 2:3-4, Psa. 75:5).
 - vii) זֶד zed: insolent, presumptuous, arrogant, proud (Psa. 119:21; Prov. 21:24, Isa. 13:11).
 - viii) זָדוֹן zaddon: insolent, insolence, presumptuousness, arrogance, arrogant, presumption, presumptuously, pride (Deut.17:12, 18:22, Prov. 11:2, 13:10, 21:24).
 - ix) זָד zud: to boil up, to seethe; acted arrogantly, proudly, presumptuously, arrogant; possesses a strong nuance of the anger that

¹ The Merriam Webster Reference Library Windows 95, version 3.1.1.400., s.v. "Arrogance" (Dallas: Zane, 1997).

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often accompanies arrogance (Ex. 21:14, Deut. 17:11-13, 18:20; Neh. 9:16, 29, Dan. 5:20).

- x) אַבָּר *abar*: to be arrogant, to become angry. As זָד *zud*, this term has a strong nuance of anger (Prov. 14:16 cf. Prov. 20:2).
 - xi) יָהִיר *yahir*: arrogant, proud, presumptuous (Hab. 2:5).
 - xii) רוּם *rum*: haughtiness, haughty loftiness, self-exaltation (Isa. 2:11, 17, Jer. 48:29).
 - xiii) רָחַב *rachab*: in a good sense to be wide or spacious; figuratively to be arrogant or proud (Psa. 40:4, 101:5, Prov. 21:4, 28:25).
 - xiv) שְׂאֵן *shaanan*: arrogance, careless (2 Kings 19:28).
- b) Greek terms.
- i) ἀλαζονεία - *alazoneia*: arrogance, boastfulness, boastful pride (James 4:16, 1 John 2:16).
 - ii) αὐθάδης - *authades*: one who pleases himself; hence self-willed, stubborn, arrogant (Titus 1:7).
 - iii) κατακαυχάομαι - *katakauchaomai*: to exult over, to be arrogant toward, to prevail or triumph over (James 3:14).
 - iv) τυφώω - *tuphoo*: (lit.) to wrap in smoke; (fig.) to be demented, to be conceited (1 Tim. 6:4).
 - v) ὑπερηφανία - *huperephania*: a state of undue sense of one's importance bordering on insolence, arrogance, haughtiness, pride (Mark 7:22).
 - vi) ὑπερήφανος - *huperephanos*: showing or thinking oneself to be above others, arrogant, proud (Luke 1:51, Rom. 1:30, 2 Tim. 3:2, James 4:6, 1 Peter 5:5).
 - vii) ὑπέρογκος - *huperogkos*: of excessive weight or size, arrogant, arrogantly (Jude 1:16).
 - viii) ὑψηλοφρονέω - *hupselophroneo*: to be high-minded, arrogant (1 Tim 6:17).
 - ix) φυσιώω - *phusioo*: to puff up or blow up, inflated, arrogant, (1 Cor. 4:6, 18-19, 5:2, 13:4).
 - x) φυσίωσις - *phusiosis*: a puffing up, conceit, arrogance (2 Cor. 12:20).
- c) The lists of terms don't compose a comprehensive list but provides a sample of the many terms used throughout Scripture.
- 3) Arrogance is a byproduct of the OSN and is initially exhibited in the mental attitude (cf. 2 Chron. 26:16, 2 Cor 12:20).
 - 4) The bulk of humanity is under the domination of their OSN. Consequently, the world, especially in the last days, is permeated with arrogance and blatant self-exaltation (e.g. sports, "gay pride," Rom. 1:25-32, 2 Tim. 3:1-5).
 - 5) Believers are not to get swept up in the hype and boastful pride of life in the cosmos (1 John 2:15-16 cf. 2 Tim. 4:10, 1 Peter 5:6).
 - a) We, as believers, must direct our focus and energy on our spiritual growth.

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- b) The adjusted CA believer will seek to exploit his privileged position in Christ. This is accomplished through the consistent intake and application of sound doctrine.
 - c) The believer who fails to prioritize his life in accordance with the clear commands of Scripture and is captivated by “the things in the world” sets himself up for spiritual ruin (e.g. inconsistent attendance in Bible class in order to pursue job, career, education, etc.).
 - d) The rational believer recognizes that “the things of world”, although very attractive, are also very superficial and will not satisfy.
 - e) As believers we must see the importance of doctrine and its efficacy (cf. Prov. 3:15, Col. 2:5).
 - f) Our position is unique. We have been delivered from “the domain of darkness” and transferred into the kingdom of Christ through faith in Christ (Col. 1:13-14).
 - g) Despite our continued physical residence in the world, we are now viewed as citizens of His kingdom (cf. Eph. 2:19, Phil. 3:20).
 - h) We must not think and behave as we did when we lived in the realm of darkness (Rom. 12:2, Eph. 5:11, Col. 3:2, 1 Peter 1:14-16).
- 6) In addition to individuals, nations are described in a derogatory sense as arrogant or proud.
- a) National arrogance is manifested when a nation adheres to an agenda(s) which violates God’s directive will. If perpetuated, the arrogance will lead to judgment (Isa. 37:21-29, Jer. 50:29-32, Rev. 18:7-8, **Nahum 3:1** Woe to the bloody city, completely full of lies *and* pillage; *Her* prey never departs.).
 - b) In contrast, a nation is properly exalted through righteousness (Prov. 13:34 cf. **Jonah 3:10** When God saw their deeds, that they turned from their wicked way, then God relented concerning the calamity which He had declared He would bring upon them. And He did not do *it*.).
- 7) As previously pointed out, an individual may exhibit pride internally, in the MA. However, arrogance may also be demonstrated externally in one’s speech and actions.
- a) Speech (1 Sam. 2:3, Dan. 4:30-37 cf. Prov. 30:32).
 - b) Conduct and mannerisms (Dan 5:22-23, Neh. 9:16, Job 15:20-25, James 2:1-4).
- 8) Some areas of pride:
- a) Strength, physical abilities, military prowess (cf. Lev. 26:19, Judges 7:2).
 - b) Beauty, appearance (2 Cor. 5:12, cf. the fall of Satan, **Ezekiel 28:17** "Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor. I cast you to the ground; I put you before kings, That they may see you.).
 - c) Prosperity, money (Psa. 49:6, Ezek. 28:5, Hosea 13:6, 1 Tim. 6:17).
 - d) Religious devotion, superficial piety (Luke 18:11).

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- e) Intellect (Jer.9:23, Acts 17:18 cf. Prov. 3:7).
- f) Geographical location (cf. John 1:46).
 - Also racial arrogance (cf. Rom 2:17).
- 9) There are an abundance of principles in Scripture concerning arrogance that a believer ought to have in his “doctrinal” frame of reference. Some principles include:
 - a) The failure to obey doctrine is arrogant (cf. Neh. 9:16).
 - b) Many in the world manifest arrogance by not seeking God even to the point of denying His existence (cf. Psa. 10:4).
 - c) Fools are arrogant and careless (Prov. 14:16 cf. Prov. 1:7, Prov. 12:15).
 - d) The believer must not exalt himself as do many in the world.
 - e) Instead, the faithful, obedient believer will be exalted by God. Such a believer may be enhanced in honor, fame, position, power, or financial prosperity (Josh. 3:7, 4:14, Psa. 37:34, 1 Chron. 14:2, 29:25, James 4:10).
 - f) Emulate God’s attitude toward pride, arrogance, and evil...hate it (Prov. 8:13).
 - g) The believer is not be conceited about his intellectual abilities and academic achievements (cf. Prov. 26:12, Phil 3:4-5, also Acts 26:24).
 - h) In certain cases, God may afflict a believer in order to prevent arrogance (2 Cor. 12:7).
 - i) If a believer has prospered financially and materially, he must not be prideful and attribute his wealth solely to his own effort.
 - j) Instead the believer must recognize God supplied it (**1 Timothy 6:17** Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. cf. Job 1:1-3, 10, 21, 42:10-12).
 - k) Those who are conceited commonly stir up strife (Prov. 28:25, cf. Prov. 13:10, where “presumption” is pride or insolence).
 - l) We are not to boast or speak with insolent pride (**Psalm 75:4-7** "I said to the boastful, 'Do not boast,' And to the wicked, 'Do not lift up the horn; ⁵ Do not lift up your horn on high, Do not speak with insolent pride.'" ⁶ For not from the east, nor from the west, Nor from the desert *comes* exaltation; ⁷ But God is the Judge; He puts down one, and exalts another.).
 - m) Especially among members of the LC (Gal. 5:26 cf. Rom. 10:12, 1 Cor. 12:13, Col. 3:11).
 - n) The believer who blindly follows his own plans with out **initially** considering God’s directive will is arrogant (James 4:13-16).
 - o) False teachers are characterized by self will and arrogance (2 Peter 2:1-20 cf. false prophets, Deut.18:20, 22).
 - p) Conversely the adjusted communicators of doctrine should exhibit a lack of self-will and arrogance (Titus 1:7).
 - q) We must not be motivated by pride or conceit to make various applications in our niches (Phil 2:3).

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- r) Do not engage in self promotion when God blesses you (cf. Acts 14:8-18, also Acts 12:21-23).
 - s) Dishonor comes with pride (**Proverbs 11:2-3** When pride comes, then comes dishonor, But with the humble is wisdom. ³ The integrity of the upright will guide them, But the falseness of the treacherous will destroy them.).
 - t) The one who is proud will be humiliated (Prov. 29:23).
 - u) Pride goes before destruction (Prov. 16:18).
 - i) The term “destruction” (שֶׁבֶר, sheber) commonly refers to a break, breach, or collapse.
 - ii) In Prov. 16:18, the term is expressive of physical calamity on a personal level (cf. Prov. 18:12).
 - v) God uses severity in His dealings with the arrogant.
 - i) Pride is particularly offensive to God (Prov. 16:5 cf. **Proverbs 8:13** "The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way, And the perverted mouth, I hate").
 - ii) The punishment of the conceited and arrogant by God is assured.
 - iii) He will not put up with arrogance in the MA (**Psalm 101:5** Whoever secretly slanders his neighbor, him I will destroy; No one who has a haughty look and an arrogant heart will I endure.).
 - iv) He will tear down the house of the proud (i.e. the proud will be ruined, Prov. 15:25 cf. Prov. 12:7, 14:11).
 - v) He will rebuke those who go astray from the principles of sound doctrine, the arrogant (Psa. 119:21).
 - vi) In legal matters during the Age of Israel, a verdict rendered by a Levitical priest or judge was binding. Moreover, the one who didn't listen to the priest or judge manifested insolence and was to be put to death (Deut. 17:9-13).
 - (1) The context clearly underscores how seriously God views obedience to one's authorities (cf. Rom. 13:1-2, Heb. 13:17).
 - (2) In general, disobedience to one's authorities invites DD (cf. Num. 26:9, Deut. 11:6).
 - vii) In the future, those who are arrogant will be overthrown by God (**Isaiah 2:11-12** The proud look of man will be abased, And the loftiness of man will be humbled, And the LORD alone will be exalted in that day. ¹² For the LORD of hosts will have a day of *reckoning* Against everyone who is proud and lofty, And against everyone who is lifted up, That he may be abased, **Isaiah 13:11** Thus I will punish the world for its evil, And the wicked for their iniquity; I will also put an end to the arrogance of the proud, And abase the haughtiness of the ruthless.).
- 10) Within the study of arrogance, boasting is a core topic.

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- a) As previously stated, arrogance or pride may be verbalized through boasting.
- b) However, a study of Scripture reveals that there exists both sinful and non-sinful boasting.
- c) The majority of the boasting which we hear in the world is of the sinful type.
 - i) Sinful boasting is to puff oneself up in speech or to speak of with excessive pride. Frequently to express pride in oneself or one's accomplishments.²
 - ii) It is a verbal sin which is sponsored by the OSN (Psa. 10:3, James 3:5-8, 4:16).
 - iii) In his arrogance, the boaster fails to acknowledge God, His plan, or His grace provisions.
 - iv) Ultimately God will silence all arrogant boasting (cf. Psa. 5:5, Ezek. 35:13-14).
 - v) The Anti-Christ is characterized by great boasting (Dan. 7:8, 11).
 - vi) Various areas of boasting sponsored by the OSN:
 - (1) Future plans (Luke 12:16-21).
 - (2) False religion, idolatry (Psa. 97:7).
 - (3) False teacher in regard to their followers (Gal. 6:13).
 - (4) Toleration of evil (1 Cor. 5:6).
 - (5) Other men (e.g. communicators, 1 Cor. 3:21, 4:6).
 - (6) Anti-Semitism (Obadiah 1:12, Rom. 11:18).
 - (7) Criminal activity, evil (Psa. 10:3, 52:1ff, 94:1ff).
 - (8) Beyond one's divine allotment (i.e. "sphere"- κανών, kanon, 2 Cor. 10:13-16).
 - (9) Deceitful business practices (Prov. 20:14).
- d) In contrast to the majority of sinful boasting in the world, there is a legitimate form of boasting.
 - i) It is referred to as sanctified or non-sinful boasting.
 - ii) While many people boast of themselves, the boasting of an adjusted believer is limited to God and His plan (Psa. 34:2, 44:8, Jer. 9:24, Rom. 15:17, 1 Cor. 1:31, 2 Cor. 10:17, Gal. 6:14).
 - iii) Faith and grace rule out legitimate boasting in one's position and accomplishments (Rom. 3:27, 4:1-5, 1 Cor. 4:7, Eph. 2:9).
 - iv) Various examples and areas, some of which overlap, where the believer may legitimately boast:
 - (1) The Lord (**1 Corinthians 1:31** that, just as it is written, "Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord.").
 - (2) The person and work of Christ (**Galatians 6:14** But may it never be that I should boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,

² Ibid., s.v. "boast."

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through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world., Phil. 3:3).

- (3) The knowledge of God and His divine viewpoint (Jer. 9:24 cf. confidence or trust in God, Prov. 14:26, 27:1-6, Heb 13:6).
 - (4) Ph. 1 salvation (Rom 5:11).
 - (5) Ph. 2 deliverance by God (Psa. 34:2ff, cf. Psa. 44:8, also Psa. 5:11).
 - (6) SG3 (Rom. 5:2, Heb. 3:6).
 - (7) Our suffering and weaknesses (Rom. 5:3, 2 Cor. 11:30, 12:5, 9).
 - (8) For the believers that stayed the course in obedience to sound doctrine, a great amount of sanctified boasting will occur at the Bema seat (2 Cor. 1:14, Phil. 2:16, 1 Thess. 2:19 cf. 1 Peter 4:13).
- v) Sanctified boasting and the ministry.
- (1) The p-t is permitted to boast in his right local church (cf. 2 Cor. 7:4, 14, 8:24, 9:2-6, 2 Thess. 1:4).
 - (2) A local church may boast in their right p-t (**2 Corinthians 1:14** just as you also partially did understand us, that we are your reason to be proud as you also are ours, in the day of our Lord Jesus., 2 Cor. 5:12, Phil. 1:26 cf. 1 Thess. 5:12).
 - (3) The p-t may boast about the authority which has been given to him by God. However he must not use it improperly (2 Cor. 10:8, cf. 1 Peter 5:2-3).
 - (4) The p-t who is properly fulfilling the work in the ministry may boast (2 Cor. 1:12).
 - (5) The p-t who supports himself in order to teach sound doctrine to those who are desire it is allowed to boast (2 Cor. 11:9-10).
 - (6) The adjusted p-t does NOT interfere in another p-t's canon and confines any boasting to his own canon (**2 Corinthians 10:13-16** But we will not boast beyond *our* measure, but within the measure of the sphere which God apportioned to us as a measure, to reach even as far as you. ¹⁴ For we are not overextending ourselves, as if we did not reach to you, for we were the first to come even as far as you in the gospel of Christ; ¹⁵ not boasting beyond *our* measure, *that is*, in other men's labors, but with the hope that as your faith grows, we shall be, within our sphere, enlarged even more by you, ¹⁶ so as to preach the gospel even to the regions beyond you, *and* not to boast in what has been accomplished in the sphere of another.).
- 11) Concluding remarks.
- a) In our world the majority of mankind is dominated their OSN.
 - b) Consequently, mental arrogance, sinful boasting, and arrogant conduct pervade our world at every level of society.
 - c) The wise believer will recognize this fact and staunchly refuse to be carried away by the "boastful pride of life."

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- d) We are citizens of heaven and as such should manifest a witness of the life sans any form of arrogance.
- e) Additionally the believer is to emulate God and hate pride.
- f) We must be careful to recognize that it is ultimately God who prospers us in our niches.
- g) Quite simply God will judge all those who are arrogant or conceited.
- h) The believer may engage in sanctified boasting but to a limited degree.
- i) Sanctified boasting places no confidence in our fleshly human abilities especially in a quest for spiritual maturity (Phil. 3:1ff).
- j) Great intelligence, good looks, worldly accolades and achievements does not commend a believer to God.
- k) Nor do these attributes give a believer an advantage in gaining the wreath.
- l) Due to God's grace, the CWL is a level playing field. Each believer in the CA has the same opportunity for spiritual advancement.
- m) It is the responsibility of each believer to exploit every opportunity for spiritual growth (e.g. Bible class, testing in our lives).

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