

Building Great Relationships
Getting Pride Out of the Way

I. Introduction

A. At the root of most relationship problems are two things:

1. Pride
2. Selfishness

B. I Corinthians 13:4b (NAS)

II. What Pride Does to Relationships:

A. It produces misunderstandings

1. Matthew 7:5 (NAS)
2. When I have pride in my life, I can't see my own faults so I can't help you with yours either.

B. It causes arguments

1. Galatians 5:26 (NAS)
2. If you have to "promote yourself," you're trying to promote something that you really aren't.
3. Romans 12:16 (NAS)

C. It prevents intimacy

1. The root of pride is usually fear of rejection.
2. Pride causes us to be aloof and superficial.
3. I John 1:6-7 (NAS)
4. You can't really love without being vulnerable.

D. It keeps reconciliation from happening

1. "Temper gets us into trouble, but pride keeps us there." (Mark Twain)
2. Most adults have no good model for saying, "I'm sorry, I was wrong. Will you please forgive me?"
3. Proverbs 28:13 (NAS)

4. So many families are living in unresolved conflict year after year after year because of one thing: pride!

III. The Solution to Pride:

- A. Admit that you make mistakes
 1. Romans 3:23 (NAS)
 2. Romans 12:3 (NAS)
 3. A definition of humility - - "Being realistic about your strengths and honest about your weaknesses at the same time."
 4. Being authentic is what impresses people, not boasting.
- B. Realize that everything I have comes from God
 1. I Corinthians 4:7a (NAS)
 2. Psalm 24:1 (NAS)
- C. Experience God's unconditional love
 1. Pride indicates emptiness on the inside.
 2. Ephesians 3:18-19 (NAS)
 3. When you really begin to experience God's unconditional love, you no longer have a need to validate your worth to everyone else.
 4. The most amazing truth in life is that God knows every single detail of your life (both good and bad) and yet He still loves you unconditionally!
 5. Romans 5:8 (NAS)
 6. The most serious type of pride is spiritual pride.
 7. John 10:10 (NAS)

IV. Conclusion