

Humility and Pride

Humility and pride, humble and proud, occupy opposite ends of the spectrum while humility or being humble is good, pride and proud are bad or evil. Right? Accurate? Simplistic? Or is there more to this picture than meets the eye?

Before we delve into scripture for answers, let us define these words from the American Heritage Dictionary.

Humble:

- 1 – marked by meekness, modesty in behavior, attitude or spirit*
- 2 – showing deferential or submissive respect*
- 3 – of low rank or station, unpretentious*

Humility:

- 1 – the quality or conditions of being humble, lack of pride*

Proud :

- 1 – feeling pleasurable satisfaction over an attribute or act by which one’s stature or sense of self is measure*
- 2 – occasioning pride, gratifying*
- 3 – marked by exacting or constraining self-respect*
- 4 – having excessive self-esteem, haughty, **swelled up or swollen***

Pride:

- 1 – sense of one’s own proper dignity or value; self-respect*
- 2 – pleasure or satisfaction taken in one’s works, achievements or possessions*
- 3 – a cause or source of pride*
- 4 – an excessively high opinion of oneself, conceit*
- 5 – the consideration or personification of this condition as the first of the 7 cardinal sins -----*
*- Pride, greed, lust, envy, gluttony, wrath, **sloth***

One of the 7 cardinal sins is sloth, a word not commonly used in everyday American English. “Slothful” used in scripture is the adjective of the noun sloth where the Lord describes an attribute or characteristic of a person.

According to the American Heritage Dictionary the word slothful means lazy or sluggish, while the definition of sloth according to the web is:

- 1 – reluctance to work or make an effort, laziness*
- 2 – disinclination to action or labor*
- 3 – spiritual apathy and inactivity*

In the Old Testament, four different Strong's numbers are used to define the word slothful. Within each of the definitions we find common denominator, descriptive words such as indolent, sluggish, false, grievous, to be slow, stupid and dull. When referring to synonyms for this word that further expand its scope such as unindustrious, unambitious, remiss, slow-moving, presumptuous, etc., we find there's total meaning agreement with scripture.

It is interesting to note that the word "presumptuous" is included in the synonyms for slothful. Presumptuous sins are defined as "sins with an uplifted hand," conveying a meaning of sinful defiance against God's law, in contrast to those rooted in error or neglectfulness.

Ps. 19:13 Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression.

*Another definition to be considered is the word **swell**:*

1 – to increase in size or volume as a result of internal pressure, expand

2 – to increase in force, size or number, or degree

*3 – to be or becoming filled with emotion (**swelled with pride**) to behave or speak pompously or self-importantly*

All of us are acquainted with the story of creation from the Book of Genesis. We are told that Yah created the universe and the two human beings from whom all humanity began: Adam and Eve.

Gen. 1:27-31 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. 28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. {moveth: Heb. creepeth} 29 And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat. {bearing...: Heb. seeding seed} {yielding...: Heb. seeding seed} 30 And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so. {life: Heb. a living soul} 31 And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day. {And the evening...: Heb. And the evening was, and the morning was etc.}

*From Gen. 1:27, we find that Yah created male and female, (not transgender) and all that He created was accomplished in 6 days. We are also told in verse 31 that He saw all He had made and it was **very good**. Yah doesn't make mistakes or errors; if He said it was very good, then we know He made mankind to be perfect.*

What happened? How did Yah's perfect creatures become the disobedient, prideful, arrogant, cruel monsters of today?

Throughout scripture Yah blasts those that are proud while giving praise to those who are humble.

Job 40:11-12 Cast abroad the rage of thy wrath: and behold every one that is proud, and abase him.
12 Look on every one that is proud, and bring him low; and tread down the wicked in their place.

Psa. 12:3 The LORD shall cut off all flattering lips, and the tongue that speaketh proud things:

Ezek. 21:26 Thus saith the Lord GOD; Remove the diadem, and take off the crown: this shall not be the same: exalt him that is low, and abase him that is high.

Luke 1:52 He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree.

In the day of creation, we were given a certain amount of pride, a certain amount of confidence. Pride or self-confidence is a necessity which is very very good. It is pride that helps us get up each morning, dress and face the day with its uncertainties and hardships.

Isa. 30:15 For thus saith the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel; In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength: and ye would not.

Yet pride without the checks of temperance of humility will lead to disaster. In this scenario, we will no longer be endowed with a pride that is spiritually channeled into a lifestyle generating love, devotion and humility to our Creator. Instead, a tragic opposite will be sadly flourishing: a pride that has become prideful and subsequently sinful. A pride that knows no boundaries, a pride that deems we are better than our sisters and brothers. A pride that tells us we are even better than our Creator!

Gen. 3:4-5 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: **5** For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil

It is the example of pride, along with jealousy, that led Cain to murder his brother Abel.

Gen. 4:4-5 And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering: {flock: Heb. sheep, or, goats} **5** But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.

Another prime example of being proud, joined hand in hand with jealousy, would combine to motivate a beautiful creation (Satan) to believe he was better than his Creator; in fact, he should be sitting on the throne of the King!

Isa. 14:12-14 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! {O Lucifer: or, O day star} **13** For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the

mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: **14** I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

Ezek. 28:13-15 Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. {sardius: or, ruby} {beryl: or, chrysolite} {emerald: or, chrysoprase} **14** Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. **15 Thou wast perfect** in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.

*In these scriptures, we are told of the beautiful and anointed cherub in the Garden of Eden, the Garden of our Lord. This cherub, Lucifer/Satan, was created by our God, embellished and covered with the most beautiful and costly stones. Satan had been created **perfect** until sin or iniquity was found in him. He was the predecessor of Adam, Eve, Cain and us. Perfect with just the right amount of pride, until it swelled up and became sinful.*

The other trait or attribute frequently spoken of in scripture is “humility.” The one person who was the most humble was our Lord Yahshua. While scripture uses the word “meek,” (Strong’s # 4239) in place of the word humble, the definition remains the same, gentle and humble.

Zech. 9:9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, (**humble**) and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.

Matt. 11:29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am **meek** and **lowly** in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

Phil. 2:5-8 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: **6** Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: **7** But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: **8** And being found in fashion as a man, he **humbled** himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

As Christ set an example for us in the way He lived His life embracing His love for others, He also set an example for us to follow in His acts of humility. As we strive to imitate Yahshua, we begin to develop a “state of mind” that is pleasing to Yah.

1 Pet. 3:4 But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.

You begin to have “peace in your soul.”

Ps. 69:32-33 The humble shall see this, and be glad: and your heart shall live that seek God. {humble: or, meek} **33** For the LORD heareth the poor, and despiseth not his prisoners.

Our Lord not only humbled Himself by taking the form of a human being, He then lived that life to perfection, culminating it by performing the most humble of all deeds:

OUR LORD WASHED the FEET of HIS DISCIPLES.

John 13:4-17 He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself. **5** After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded. **6** Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet? {Peter saith: Gr. he saith} **7** Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter **8** Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me. **9** Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head. **10** Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all. **11** For he knew who should betray him; therefore said he, Ye are not all clean. **12** So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you? **13** Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am. **14** If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. **15** For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you. **16** Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him. **17** If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.

Some of the greatest promises made in Scripture, are made to the humble:

Psa. 147:6 The LORD lifteth up the meek: he casteth the wicked down to the ground.

Isa. 57:15 For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

Isa. 66:2 For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the LORD: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.

1 Pet. 5:5 Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

True humility does not produce pride but gratitude. Since God is both our Creator and Redeemer, our existence and righteousness depend on Him.

John 15:5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. {without me: or, severed from me}

Matt. 18:3-4 And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. **4** Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

We have stated that we are born with a small amount of pride, the pride needed to get up and be a doer. We have also been blessed with the freedom of choice. It is now up to us to choose: Do I magnify self by putting others down, being puffed up and slothful, or do I choose to follow my Lord who exemplified the words "humble" and "humility" by laying down His life for me?

Proverbs to ponder:

Prov. 18:12 Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, and before honor is humility.

Prov.29:23 A man's pride shall bring him low: but honor shall uphold the humble in spirit.

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