

## Pride:

We are raised with an underlying theme in our life to be 'proud'. Proud of our accomplishments, who we are, what we look like, what we are. We are told to 'take pride' in what we do and how we do it.

Yet the truth is everything we are, everything we are able to do and accomplish comes from God, who created us thus making us: 'who we are' and gave us the 'abilities' we possess. This realization beckons us to embrace something contrary to what the worldly views are constantly trying to get us to employ.

There is a saying that 'pride cometh before a fall' indicating an enlightenment that 'pride' has a cost that isn't worth whatever 'value' one might glean by the philosophy of 'being proud or taking pride in ...'.

If we are to walk a life of wisdom/knowledge then we would do well to instead adapt an understanding that since every cell of our body was woven together by God while we were yet in our mother's wombs and thus every ability and gifting we use or have is from Him (not us). So though we have nothing to be proud of in ourselves we should have an attitude of gratitude to our loving Heavenly Father who so 'richly' blesses us.

Some might say well 'taking pride in your work' means you should do this so that the work you do is done 'well/to the best of your ability' however again I would challenge that the 'motivation' to do something well for 'how it reflects on you' is a poor goal but to have the mindset of doing 'all' for the 'glory and honor' of God is a much better and rewarding aspiration. For believer's is it what we are 'called' to do and where our heart should be rooted in the essence of what we should strive to achieve in 'everything' we do.

Since without God we would not exist and He is the One who initiated relationship with us and who provided a path to restore fellowship with us when we broke our relationship with Him there is no room for pride in any aspect of our lives even or especially when it comes to our ability to have a relationship with Him. All things are: thru Him or for Him or to Him aside from that there is nothing.

So let us strive each day to 'glorify and honor' God in 'everything' we do, not because we should but instead out of gratefulness for 'who' He is and 'all' He has done for us. But perhaps in my mind most of all because He 'chose' us and 'desires' a relationship with us that goes beyond anything we could ever imagine. Since He 'loves' us even though He knows our sinful condition and unfaithfulness to Him yet because He is 'Love' looks beyond what we 'are' to what we will become thru being in relationship 'with Him' and patiently nurtures us on in growth and transformation.

May we seek His presence so that we are being 'changed' as in the story of Songs of Solomon. The king did not choose from the women within the walls of the kingdom who were beautiful and believed themselves to be the best choice. But instead he went out into the fields to select his bride. At first the people of the kingdom didn't understand because all they could see was the 'browned' skin from her working in the fields probably uneducated with rough and dirty skin. Yet the king saw something the others did not which is 'what' she would 'become' as she spent time with him. Later in the book the story tells of one night where she is running in desperation to find 'her king' and how the people now see 'how' she has been 'transformed' and recognize her 'regal' and as a queen.

We too are on a journey as she was. In our lives we have all encountered those who doubt our worthiness and even the ability for such a transformation to take place. It becomes about comparisons but even more so about our faults and choices and weaknesses and whether or not it is even worth the attempt. But that is a very narrow and limited perspective which we as finite beings in our humanness think we have the ability to perceive. However, we 'must' if we are going to grow in wisdom understand that the 'truth' is beyond our grasp apart from the revelations of the Holy Spirit and God. That this truth is 'nothing' is impossible for God and that He wills and does for His good pleasure. He is so far above and beyond our understanding that though He gives us 'glimpses' of truth we only glean in part not whole at this point. As such His vision of our transformation and what we are becoming while we have the privilege of basking in His presence (if we choose to take it) is like seeing in a mirror dimly currently and will only become clear once we enter His kingdom. Till then we walk a path of 'faith' in knowing that whether we see or feeling like we are changing yet God is faithful and 'He who began a good work is faithful to complete it'. A path of 'hope' for what lies before us as Christ was able to endure the cross for 'the hope set before Him'. A path of 'Love' because God is Love and we are surrounded and carried thru the journey of this life embraced by this Love.