



See service sheet online at www.knbc.org

Welcome Tim leading

Opening Scripture

Hymn:

Reading:

Prayer: Adoration and Praise

Main reading: Luke 10:25-37, 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Hymn

Sermon: Love is not proud

Hymn:

Closing Prayer

Close -----

Listen to today's sermon by clicking on the link at www.knbc.org.

The audio file is [21_01_17.mp3](#).

(See 20_12_06 for sermon on boasting)

Welcome and pray

- On 2nd Nov 2004 on a Colorado highway a car hit a patch of ice, careened down a 75-foot embankment, rolled twice and came to rest on its roof in the middle of a mountain river. Lola, the 78 yr. old driver of the vehicle, was ejected from the car and left badly injured hanging on a cliff 5 feet from the road. Her 79-year-old husband, was trapped inside the car, upside down in knee-high water.
- Two cars passed by the accident, slowing but not stopping to help the couple. The third car did stop. From inside Sean Abbey, ran to the cliff edge, found Lola and pulled her to safety on the roadside.

Those other two cars stopped - but didn't help. Were they too busy thinking of their own situation to help another? Was it pride like the Levi and Priest?

We continue in our series on love - **"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud."** ^{1Co 13:4} today we come to the phrase **love is not proud**. I struggle with all of them, I certainly know much about this one. Last time I asked whether boasting was your Achilles heel?

No? Well, is it pride? Perhaps you are too proud to say!

Love ...is not proud. Today we have 3 sections: Pride

What it is, What it does, What I should do x2

1. *Pride - what it is.....*

The word pride has broad usage. It could be pride in finishing a job well. It is right to have a satisfaction, remembering that God is the giver of all gifts.

We could have pride when we see someone in the family achieving well, maybe winning a prize in sport or a good piece of school work. Again praising them and acknowledging their achievement is right. But pride tends to see what glory there is for me in this. **"My child has done well, my child.**

Today we consider pride as described in dictionaries as: *your feelings of your own worth and respect for yourself: such that* (giving the example)

"She has too much pride to accept any help." Another dictionary says: *pride is an inordinate self-esteem or conceit* another says: *pride is the feeling that they have - that they are - better or more important than other people.*

- Is it Vanity or Pride? What's the difference? In Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, the character Mary says: "Vanity and pride are different things, though the words are often used synonymously. A person may

be proud without being vain. Pride relates more to our opinion of ourselves, vanity to what we would have others think of us."

The Greek word here translated pride is phusioo foo-see-o'-o AV 7; 7. And it means to inflate, blow up, to cause to swell up, to bear one's self loftily. **"Love is not proud."** many translate it **'puffed up'**, The ESV and NAS has **'arrogant'**, the HCSB has **conceited**; Tyndale renders it **Love swelleth not**.

Pride is not just being strong willed. This is a personality trait. Those with strong wills can use it to help them stand firm in the important things but need to be wary when they exert their will wrongly on others. Someone with a weak will needs to stand more firmly on what is right and wrong, but can more easily elevate others and serve others. No pride is deeper than that.It is THE essential moral issue for it seeks to make me God.

So where did pride come from? - A short history of pride would be useful.

Was there pride from the beginning? No, well, not quite, for God made everything good. But **haughty eyes and a proud heart, the lamp of the wicked, are sin!** Pr 21:4. Pride is a sin. So did pride come in with the fall of man? No, before that, somewhere inbetween Genesis 2 and 3.

God speaks to one of his high angels, a Cherubim resplendent with glory: **"I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, O guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones. Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendour. So I threw you to the earth;** Eze 28:16-17 This is Satan the fallen angel.

"How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! V12. You said in your heart, "I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High." But you are brought down to the grave, to the depths of the pit." Isa 14:12-15

It was the devil, or Satan, that ancient serpent who deceived the woman Eve in the garden of Eden. What was the promise? You can be like God. Self-elevation. It was a call to share in Satan's sin, it was a call to pride!

✚ The essence of every sin is an attempt to displace God with self.

So pride entered the human race with Adam and Eve. Everyone has it, it is one could say the mother of all sins, all other sins are born out of pride.

Dig behind other sins and you will find pride.

From our vantage point we can look back at the long line of misery caused by pride.

1. Cain killed his brother out of envy, that is pride.
2. Lamech boasted of his wickedness and built a city on violence.
3. God's judgment came with the flood but straight afterwards mankind gathered together at Babel **"Come let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves"** x2
4. David's advisor Ahithophel hanged himself when his advice was not followed 2Sa 17:23
5. General Naaman, when told by Elisha how he could be cured refused to wash in the River Jordan 2Ki 5:11-13
6. King Uzziah became proud and ended up covered in Leprosy 2Ch 26:16-19
7. In the book of Esther there's Haman who loved honour, and boasted of what he had, and was enraged when people wouldn't bow down to him Es 3:5 5:11,13 6:6 7:10
8. Nebuchadnezzar, the Babylonian Emperor, most powerful man in the world. Puffed up and proud he said: **"Is not this the great Babylon I have built as the royal residence, by my mighty power and for the glory of my majesty?"** Da 4:30
9. Hezekiah was a good king but became proud of his treasures 2Ki 20:13 2Ch 32:31 Isa 39:2
10. Then God confronted his grandson **Belshazzar** for all his pride. God wrote on the wall causing **Belshazzar** to shake in fear, that night God struck him down.

Pride is indeed man's frontal attack on God. Trying to steal His honour, His glory, His praise. It is so arrogant, not only because it tries to wrest control from God, but it even thinks it can do so. You have no control over what happens, your life is not in your hands. God decides that – not you. That is the blindness found in all men.

Didn't Jesus call the rich man who boasted of his treasures a 'fool', and what of the Pharisees with all their self-righteous pride.

Has pride, the disease in every human heart, gone away? No. quite the opposite, in our increasingly Godless society it is encouraged. It's a virtue!

- While preparing this sermon I popped to the corner shop: in huge letters as I queued up was the sign "MY life MY way" (blue E cigarettes)
- A spam email has just come through "Get the recognition you deserve and get ahead..." (maybe you had the same)

From the moment you enter this world you are told to take pride in yourself.

The bible speaks of man's endless **boasting of what he has and what he does**.

✚ Someone commented that plants grow only in certain soils, or at certain heights, or in certain places. Unlike these, pride is a weed that, springing up in every heart, it will grow at all elevations, in all places, at all times.

Pride is invisible

When we were in Polish capitol of Warsaw you can see in the centre the huge Russian built tower. Local people say "the best view is from the top". Why? Because from there you can see everything - except the ugly tower. So it is with pride everyone else can see it, but you in the tower can't see it. Like a spot on the end of my nose pride is invisible to me but not to others. Yes pride maybe be invisible but it is not as we say 'asymptomatic' it does show. There are actually plenty of symptoms.

Just as by the sea you put a shell up to your ears and listened to the sounds So you can 'hear' the pride lurking deep in the heart because it comes out of the mouth. Surely, **out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks**.

The pride of heart leads to the boasting of the tongue. Which James says **make great boasts** James 3:5.

See how it speaks for me - **boasting** and speaks against others - **rudeness**
See how it puts me up by **boasting** and puts others down through **rudeness**.
I'm elevated exalted, others looked down upon, degraded, mocked, ridiculed

2. What it **do** – what does pride **do**?

■ Reading a list of possible symptoms in KH on Friday with mother
What are the symptoms of pride? You can see a proud person because they are uppity, prickly, easily offended, quick to find fault with others and blind to their own failings. Pride make a person aloof, not willing to talk to others, or to think of others, and therefore it doesn't think to help others. Love unites, pride being the opposite of love - divides.

■ We can see that on a national scale in the US at the moment. UK too?
We can see that on a personal level. Yes pride sets people against each other. When someone is chatty to those whom they see as advantageous to them, but ignore those who they see below them "They are of no use to me" 'My association with them won't elevate me'.

✚ As someone said: God wisely designed the human body so that we cannot easily pat our own backs Guideposts.

Pride is a problem for me and for you. Pride drives my other sins.

Pride has been described as the dandelion of the soul. Its root goes deep; if only a little is left behind - it sprouts again. Its seeds lodge in the tiniest cracks. And it flourishes in good soil:

The danger of pride is that it feeds on goodness. David Rhodes.

Satan loves to divide and pride does it very effectively. Most of life's problems can be traced back to pride. Couples engage in power struggles where both think they are "right", producing squabbles, it creates division.

Most church problems can be traced back to pride.

"Pride only breeds quarrels, but wisdom is found in those who take advice." Pr 13:10

Even church members engage in power struggles. Factions, a party spirit, stubbornness. Be extremely careful about "taking a position" on something. Let love take the higher road - and let go on minor things.

Thus pride stops me being involved in building the kingdom

Wall **"The next section was repaired by the men of Tekoa, but their nobles would not x2 put their shoulders to the work under their supervisors."** Ne 3:5

Pride separates me from God

✚ Even the Greek philosopher Plato could see that and said: "The proud man is forsaken of God"

C.S.Lewis said: *As long as you are proud you cannot know God. A proud man is always looking down on things and people, and, of course, as long as you are looking down you cannot see something that is above you.*

Pride with its focus on self, listens to Satan's lie to Eve; "*you can be the one who decides*". Yes you! Little do you know that makes you Satan's slave!

... and share his destiny - **Pride goes before destruction** Pr 16:18 Pride sets that person to go where Satan will soon go - which is firmly on the road to hell.

Pride is behind all the gender and perverted sexual immorality as *you* decide who *you* want to be. This along with every other sin is a direct attack on God. God is not squeezed out – he is forcibly ejected! The God who is love, truth, kindness and patience - is replaced with the ugliness of man's pride.

✚ *US found father Benjamin Franklin:* There is perhaps no one of our natural passions so hard to subdue as pride. Beat it down, stifle it, mortify it as much as you please, it is still alive. Even if I could conceive that I had completely overcome it, I should probably be proud of my humility.

Pride stops me being loving

God is love, he is not just very loving, or very, very loving He IS love. God is the ultimate of love, period. Pride is the opposite, it cannot be loving because it is centered on me and away from the other person.

3. Lastly what I should do? What should I do with the pride in my heart?

God sees it and he hates it and will one day judge every proud man or woman. But God in His love has also made a way to deal with it.

Has God revealed your pride to you?? No? then read God's word, hear God's word. It is through God's word - and by his Spirit – that you can see your pride as it really is – in all its ugliness.

Have you seen it? Then good turn from it - ask him to forgive you of it. In revealing it he has had to humble you. This is a good work in you. However painful - be glad of it. For without it you will never find peace with God.

Is there too much of you in the way to receive help? too much of you to receive Christ? No? Then look to the CROSS now – do it now, Do so now.

Humble yourself and he will lift you up. Bring yourself down - and raise him up – then he will lift you up to himself. **God Humbles / exalts**

A proud person will never say “Jesus is Lord” no because they are ‘Lord’! It is the humble man or woman who gives God his rightful place and opens to door to his favour.

Pride shut off the way of God's favour. Remember Naaman who refused to wash in the Jordan River? But when he humbled himself - he was healed.

Humbling is necessary to know God. While **God opposes the proud** – He does **give his grace to the humble**. Are you empty of self? Are you then willing to come and be filled with Christ's righteousness?

Here's wise advice from Thomas Manton who said: Empty the bucket before you go to the fountain. If the pail be full of the best and cleanest water it is idle to carry it to the well, for its fulness disqualifies it for being a receiver. Those who think themselves full of grace are not likely to pray right, for prayer is a beggar's trade, and supposes the existence of need.

What does a full bucket want with the well? Let it stay where it is. Fitness for mercy is not found in self-sufficiency, but in emptiness and want. He can and will receive most of the Lord who has least of his own. If the bucket is full of foul water, it is wise to throw it away as we go to the crystal spring. We must not come to the Lord with our minds full of vanity, lust, covetousness, and pride. "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me." He will not make his grace the medium of floating our unclean desires. Grace will cleanse out sin, but it will not mix with it, neither may we desire such a dishonourable compromising of the holy name of the Lord our God. Let the bucket of the heart be turned upside down and drained of the love of sin, and then prayer will be heard, and Jesus will come in and fill it. He then prays – will you too pray: “Lord, empty me of self, of pride, of worldliness, of unbelief, and then fill me with all the fulness of God.”

When you have been humbled then praise God as Nebuchadnezzar did: **Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and exalt and glorify the King of heaven, because everything he does is right and all his ways are just. And those who walk in pride he is able to humble.** Da 4:37

When humbled then you can be filled from that font of Christ's love. Now you can live the life of love. x2

True love teaches you to look to the needs of others not yourself.

True love will give esteem to others, it will raise my value of them; and at the same time limit my self-esteem. Love for others is the best cure for the ulcers of self-conceit and arrogance.

The true Christian life is a Christ-like life, we must follow his example and.. **“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.”** Php 2:3

J.B. Philips paraphrase: **This love of which I speak is slow to lose patience — it looks for a way of being constructive. It is not possessive: it is neither anxious to impress - nor does it cherish inflated ideas of its own importance.**

Pride, vanity, and knowledge swells the mind with self-importance; - but love is humble, meek, modest, unobtrusive.

Brothers and sisters, he who loves his neighbour is not filled with pride or vanity but rather Christ, who so emptied of self, showed the human race what true love is. **Love .. is not proud**, x2 tackle pride, Seek Christ, then you can be truly filled with His love - to then love others. ____END