
BIBLE TALK

This week the question is: **Is God arrogant and egotistical?**

In a conversation with a close friend the subject of God came up. My friend asked, "*Why is it wrong for us to be prideful and egotistical, but it's not wrong for God to be that way? Why does He seem to have such a big ego – wanting people to worship Him and wanting everyone to notice Him? Why doesn't He have to be humble like He expects us to be humble?*"

This is actually a good question and is the focus of this week's Bible Talk.

Defining Terms

In order to give an answer to this question, we need to define some terms. We need to define "pride" (arrogance) and we also need to define "humility."

First, the word "pride" means "*having an inflated view of oneself.*" We all know of people who brag and make claims about themselves which seem to be inflated. They are probably bragging and doing some false advertising about themselves because they are afraid they will not be accepted by others just as they are. Who wants to be friends with an ordinary person – right? After all, don't we all want to be friends with the one who invented FaceBook or cell phones?

Pride, then, is actually a lie. Pride is having an opinion of yourself which is propped up with falsehood.

Second, the word "humility" is having a realistic view of oneself. Humility is knowing and admitting your limitations. Occasionally there will be someone we meet who has false humility. They say, for example, "I'm not very good at basketball, but if you'll let me play on your team, I'll try to do my best." So you choose this poor, wretched player only to discover he can slam dunk the ball, make every rebound, and never misses a three-point shot. We have a word for these kind of people – a "*hustler.*"

Applying The Definitions

Now that we have defined the words "pride" and "humility," we can see that they cannot possibly apply to God nor to Jesus. Neither God nor Jesus have an over-inflated view of themselves. Neither have an exaggerated view of themselves.

What is the view that God and Jesus have of themselves:

- **They view themselves as almighty** (Rev 1:8) – but this is not a false or inflated view, for there is nothing impossible for them. They truly have the power to do whatever they wish.
- **They view themselves as perfectly holy** (Rev 4:8) – but this is not a false or inflated view, for neither God nor Jesus have ever sinned. They are both absolutely pure and without sin. On one occasion Jesus asked the question, "Who convicts Me of sin?" (Jn 8:46) and no one would answer a single word.
- **They view themselves as the giver of all life** (Ex 20:11) – but this is not a false or inflated view, for they truly did create from nothing all life – of every form. Not only did they create all life, but they sustain all life by their constant watch and care over the creation (Heb 1:3).

Therefore, neither God nor Jesus are filled with pride. They have not one ounce of pride simply because it is impossible for the Creator of all heaven and earth to think more highly of Himself than He really is. This is impossible.

Likewise, we noticed the word "humility" means to have a realistic view of oneself and admit one's limitations and weaknesses. When Jesus was on earth, living as a man, He was a humble man. He knew His limitations and weaknesses in a human body.

- Jesus knew He could sin and He knew He had to constantly resist the temptations of the Devil (Mt 4:1-11).
- Jesus knew He could not do what His flesh wanted to do. On one occasion Jesus said, "I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me" (Jn 5:30).
- Jesus knew He could die and was limited by the fleshly body in which He came to the earth (Mt 26:38).

So, yes, Jesus had humility when He was living on earth like a man. He realized His weaknesses as a human and relied totally upon His Father and His Father's word to guide Him in all that He did. But after the Lord died and resurrected, He was exalted. He could no longer die. He could

no longer get weary. He could no longer be tempted by the Devil. He was exalted as "King of kings and Lord of Lords" (Rev 17:14).

The Matter of Worship

It is not inconsistent for God or Jesus to call upon men and women to remove pride and be humble. Neither is it egotistical for the Creator to call upon men and women to be obedient and worshipful. Don't we ourselves expect others to show appreciation when we do things for them. Consider the passage in Lk 17:12-19 when ten men were healed of leprosy by the Lord, yet only one returned to thank the Lord.

To illustrate, suppose someone in the hospital needed a kidney transplant and you volunteered to donate one of your kidneys. Then suppose that, after the operation, the patient refused to come and thank you for your sacrifice for them. Suppose they didn't even want to be around you. Suppose you hear them speaking to the nurses and doctors cursing your name and belittling you. How would you feel? Wouldn't you at least feel disappointed that the person whose life you just saved, is now slandering you?

Well, this is how God feels. After He has created us, given us life, sustained us all thru our lives, made us well when we were sick, gave His only Son to die for our sins, and now we turn our backs on Him, want nothing to do with Him, slander Him to others, and accuse Him of being egotistical and prideful.

Because of who God is and because of what He has done, we owe to Him our thanksgiving – we owe to Him our lives and all the honor and worship we could possibly give to Him our Creator.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Well ... thanks for considering our message this week. We invite you to visit our website www.WillOfTheLord.com. There you may download the notes and the audio file of the message you just listened to.

Call again next week when we consider a new subject on *Bible Talk*.