

Attitude #1 Humility

Matthew 5:3 - Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

I admit that I am powerless over the effects of drugs, alcohol and self-centered behavior, my life is unmanageable.

Pride is the haughty attitude shown by someone who believes, often unjustifiably, that he or she is better than others. It is distasteful to look at and yet seemingly undetected by the person who possesses it. It is a crafty sin that sets up camp in the life of the believer, often not always when the believer is doing bad but also when they are doing good. While they are doing well, they are often tempted to believe that they might be better than others but have no need to do better than they are right now. Pride convinces them that what got them there can now be put on the shelf and the tools they possess to move forward are sufficient and there is no need to add more tools to their spiritual toolbox.

When pride is left to itself it tends to grow, and it often grows silently. The proud person prides himself on past accomplishments and fails to see there is still more to accomplish. They are enamored by a title and yet are prone to avoid responsibility. They fall victim to the gratification of the flesh when recognized for their new ability to move forward while forgetting that God deserves the glory and that giving God the glory keeps the glory in its proper place.

2 Corinthians 10:17 - But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.

Anytime that we begin to take credit for the work that God has done in our lives we place ourselves with the proud. God expects me to allow Him and participate with Him in completing the work that He started in me. Whenever I cease to allow God to work, I will begin and continue to make decisions based only on what I know and not based on what I continue to learn.

Proverbs 11:2 - When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom.

Proverbs 16:18 - Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

Whenever we read the Bible, we will always glean from its instruction. There are examples set before us of people doing things the right way and many that have not. Either way, we can learn from both. We also have many instructive verses that we can apply to our lives that give us clear and doable ways in which to live that will always benefit us if we follow them. Sow the promise and reap the blessing; ignore the promise and reap the consequence.

Our text verse:

Proverbs 15:22 - Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counselors they are established.

Proverbs 15 is primarily based upon the contrast between the wise and the foolish. A great contrast for each of us to learn from since we have all been both and hopefully are now just striving to be just one.

1. Something neglected. Without counsel....

There is an old saying that many eyes see more than one. Solomon uses the term "**without counsel**" not as an indication that the counsel was unavailable but rather that the counsel was unsolicited. Whenever we get to the place where we think that we know all that we need to know and have no need to consider what others might know, we will arrive at the place where we wish we knew more. How many things could we have avoided had we just considered the possibility of asking someone else who might be more knowledgeable about a certain thing?

But why no counsel?

- Because we can be impulsive....hasty, reckless and spontaneous.

If I am hasty in making decisions without contemplation, I am more inclined to be more confident in myself and less inclined to solicit the advice of others. We are more likely to be wrong alone than we are to be wrong all together.

Proverbs 3:4,5 - So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man. 5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

- Because we are proud.

Proverbs 13:10 - Only by pride cometh contention (strife...bitter conflict) but with the well advised is wisdom.

- Because we are stubborn.

1 Samuel 15:23 - For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.

- Because we are impatient

2. Something lost. Purposes are disappointed (made void)

- Disappointment leads to frustration.
- Frustration leads to anger.
- Anger leads to carelessness.

3. Something available. But in the multitude (abundance) of counselors

- Humble ourselves and look around.....**be discreet (careful, cautious), honest, scriptural and proven.**

You cannot be too cautious when seeking godly counsel. Always consider the well from which the counsel is being drawn. The only well of counsel that is worth the risk of application is the well of the Bible and experience.

Proverbs 1:5 - A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:

- We should humble ourselves and admit that we don't know everything, and we don't have to. Ignorance is only as dangerous as the choice to stay that way.
- Look for *God* answers, not the answer you are looking for.

Luke 22:42 - Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.

What *God* wants us to know that we have a desire to know, we will know as *God* wills us to know.

4. Something gained. They are established.....things happen!!!

What are established? Purposes! Purposes and plans are established (accomplished). Whenever we see the strategy for success laid out for us in the Bible it is always for our good that we set out to model that strategy. We will never experience the promise of the word of *God* if we refuse to follow the condition that is placed upon that promise. All throughout our Christian life *God* encourages us to learn to face the challenges of life the way that He intends for us to face them. One sure way of knowing that we know we have a greater chance to fail is when we fail to do things the way that *God* instructs us to do them. Seek godly counsel for the challenges of life; seek *God's* word for the instructive ways to face those challenges and let *God* lead in all that you think, say, and do; in doing so your conscience will be clear, your peace will be reality and your reward will be sure.

Proverbs 12:15 - The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise.

**Gulf CI - 1/20/16, Jackson CI - 1/21/16, Gulf CI - 4/26/17, FBCMEW - 6/26/19,
FBCMEW - 9/21/22, Holmes CI - 9/22/22, MEWFBC - 11/6/24, NWFRC - 11/7/24**