

## Wisdom of the Bible ~ Arrogance ~ Leader's Guide

1. To be “arrogant” (adj) means exaggerating one’s own worth or importance in an unpleasantly overpowering manner; being excessively proud, haughty or lordly. “Arrogance” (noun) means a feeling of superiority demonstrated in an overbearing manner. Antonyms would include humble (humility) and unassuming.

**Arrogance** is an outlook that says:

- What I achieve is because of me.
- I am strong, need no one’s help.
- When I achieve something good, the credit belongs to me.

**Humility** is an outlook that says:

- What I achieve is due to God’s grace.
- I am weak and need God’s help.
- When I achieve something good, the credit belongs to God.

2. What does God think about arrogance?

Psalm 5:4-5 arrogant people cannot stand in the Lord’s presence

Isaiah 2:12 the proud will be punished and humbled

Isaiah 42:8 the Lord will not share praise that belongs to him with another

Luke 14:11 he who exalts himself will be humbled

Romans 11:19-21 Gentile believers are welcome but are not better than the Jews

James 4:6 God opposes the proud

3. Why else does the Bible say that arrogant pride is dangerous?

Proverbs 11:2 pride brings disgrace

Proverbs 16:18 pride causes one to stumble, fall, and be destroyed

4. Lon Solomon, Senior Pastor at the McLean Bible Church said “I am convinced that arrogance is the ‘mother sin’ of every other sin.” Do you believe that? Can you think of an example? How would arrogance relate to adultery? To coveting things belonging to your neighbor? To worshipping an idol?

5. Can good people be arrogant or proud? (Matthew 26:31-35, Mark 10:35-37) How was Peter arrogant? Does God forgive arrogance? How can we be forgiven?

6. How can we protect ourselves against arrogance?

A. Give God the credit for what you achieve. (1 Corinthians 15:9-10)

B. Surround yourself with honest friends who will point out your arrogance.

(Proverbs 27:6)

C. Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought. (Romans 12:3)

Compare yourself with the right standard, which is what?