

Let There Be Light – Part 2 “Lighting the Darkness of Pride”
December 10, 2017 - Sermon by Pastor Bryan Tomes

Text:

- **Genesis 1:1-4**

- *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*
We should speak the scripture loud and proud. We’re going to speak on PRIDE today – there are some things we should be proud of and some that we should not.
- *The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.*
- *Then God said, “Let there be **light**,” and there was **light**. And God saw that the **light** was good. Then he separated the **light** from the darkness.*
- **The Light Was Good - He Separated It From Darkness**
Have you noticed that most bad things happen at night --- they go to the club, they drink and do drugs in the darkness. Darkness and sin go together – when you sin, you don’t want to be exposed by the light. But Christ wants to bring the light into the dark places of our heart.

Last week we talked about the darkness of religion as it opposes the move of God which is based on relationship.

- **Psalm 18:28**

- *You light a lamp for me. The Lord, my God, lights up my darkness*

God wants to expose the dark areas of our heart and the darkness flees. Everybody tries to fix darkness with darkness. You can’t fix sin with sin. The ONLY remedy for sin is Jesus Christ who cleanses and washes away all sin by His blood.

- **John 8:12**

- *“I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won’t have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life.”*

You have to let the love of God in your heart – it’s a heart issue.

- **Christ Wants To Bring Light To The Dark Areas of Your Life.**

- **Today We Will Bring Light To The Darkness of Pride!**

- Someone once said: It's better to lose your pride to accompany the people you love; than to lose the people you love to accompany your pride.

Pride is a deadly killer - kills dreams, kills hope, kills teamwork, kills relationships!

A prideful person won't take instructions from anyone. They don't want to follow instructions and they don't want to receive instructions from another person.

- **Pride Is the Kill Switch To The Favor of God!**

- **James 4:6**

- God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

- No one wants the opposition of God on their life, but the favor of God, which is why we want to deal with the spirit of pride in our lives.

- **Proverbs 16:18**

- Pride goes before destruction, and haughtiness before a fall.

- People want to SIT on the throne of God instead of honoring the throne of God.

- **Destruction is the wake of the proud**

- **Pride doesn't look up it looks down**

- The bible tells us we're seated above in heavenly places and we should set our minds on things above – so when we have opposition, we can operate from a place of elevation, where God is.

- When you're looking down you lose focus on what's above

- **Hebrews 12** - Tells us to Focus or Fix our eyes on Jesus - The Author and Finisher of Our Faith .. when we have our eyes on Christ, He has His eye on us.

- **Pride is defined** as “An inordinate amount of self-esteem.”

- The synonyms for the word PRIDE are not pretty; they are conceit, arrogance, and boastfulness.

- **Pride is ugly, boastful and rude**

- The bible says we should clothe ourselves with humility. We need to take off our pride.

- **Pride says I'm better than you**

- Satan said to God “I'm better than you”.

- **Pride stands in opposition to God**

- **Philippians 2** Tells that Christ Humbled Himself in Obedience to God and God Elevated To The Highest Place. He took on a servient nature.

- Jesus emptied Himself. Pride is full of oneself. The only way to defeat the darkness of pride is with the light of humility.

- **1 Peter 5:5-7**

- *In the same way, you who are younger must accept the authority of the elders. And all of you, dress yourselves in humility as you relate to one another, for **“God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”***
- **So humble yourselves** under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor.
- *Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you.*

The problem is we're supposed to bring all our worries and cares to God, but we like to fix all those things ourselves. But we're trying to fix darkness with darkness. Darkness must be remedied by light.

The bible tells us not to worry about tomorrow but when we're in the spirit of pride, we're always worrying about tomorrow.

- **Humility Is the Only Remedy For Pride**

- **Humility Def:**

- the quality or state of being humble
- freedom from pride or arrogance
 - The Absence of Pride Is The Presence of Humility

- **4 Directives From The Scriptures**

- **Philippians 2:3** - *Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves.*
 - *Humility is a Valuing of others - Its Considerate and Kind*
 - *Look out for the needs of others before you look out for yourself*
 - *Pride looks after yourself first*
 - *One of the best ways to battle pride is to encourage others*

- **Romans 12:16** - *Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.*

We don't look down on people, we lift people up, not push people away.

- In order for humility to live, pride must die.
We need to see ourselves as God sees us, and we need to value ourselves as God does.

- **James 4:10** - *Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.*

- *C.S. Lewis - humility is not thinking less of yourself it's thinking of yourself less*

- **Ephesians 4:2** - *Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.*

- **We must be careful of False humility**

- The proud man can learn humility - the problem is he's proud of it

- **James 3:11** - *Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring?*

- **Scriptural Benefits of Humility**

- **Proverbs 11:2** - *When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.*
 - **Wisdom** – the ability to take information and use it – how many times do we hear the scriptures but don't use it – we want to fix it ourselves. But God wants us to be still and know HE is God. Wait upon the Lord and soar like an eagle, not like a chicken that's always looking down and pecking at the ground.
- **Proverbs 22:4** - *Humility is the fear of the Lord; its wages are riches and honor and life.*
 - **Riches, Honor & Life**
- **1 Peter 5:6** - *Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time*
 - **Elevation** - It only comes with Purity & Holiness
 - **Psalm 24:3-4** - *Who may ascend the mountain of the LORD? Who may stand in his holy place? 4 The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god.*
- **2 Chronicles 7:14** - *If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.*
 - **Salvation & Healing** – come open hearted to God

PRAYER: God, here I am. Fill me with your presence. Fill me with your life. Drive out all the darkness that's inside of me and create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.