



## Abandon Pride - Obadiah

**“According to Christian teachers, the essential vice, the utmost evil, is Pride. Unchastity, anger, greed, drunkenness, and all that, are mere flea bites in comparison: it was through Pride that the devil became the devil: Pride leads to every other vice: it is the complete anti-God state of mind... it is Pride which has been the chief cause of misery in every nation and every family since the world began.”**

C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity

### God comes against those who put themselves in high places Obadiah 1-14

Obadiah 3-4 – *“The arrogance of your heart has deceived you, You who live in the clefts of the rock, In the loftiness of your dwelling place, Who say in your heart, ‘Who will bring me down to earth?’ ‘Though you build high like the eagle, Though you set your nest among the stars, From there I will bring you down,” declares the Lord.*”

- The bringing down of the **Jebusites** (2 Samuel 5:1-10; 1 Chronicles 11:4-9)
- The bringing down of the people of **Sardis** (Revelation 3:1-6)
- The bringing down of the **Edomites** (Obadiah 1-14)
  - The pride of Edom and the false security on high mountains (v.1-9)  
*“Behold, I will make you small among the nations; You are greatly despised.” (v.2)*
  - The treatment of the Edomites toward the Israelites (v.10-14)  
*“Because of violence to your brother Jacob, You will be covered with shame, And you will be cut off forever.” (v.10)*

### So it goes with Edom, so it goes with all nations Obadiah 15-21

Obadiah 15 – *“For the day of the Lord draws near on all the nations. As you have done, it will be done to you. Your dealings will return on your own head.”*

- God’s judgment of all the nations who are prideful (Obadiah 15-16)  
*“For the day of the Lord draws near on all the nations.” (v.15)*
- God is going to restore His kingdom in Jerusalem and over all nations (Obadiah 17-21)  
*“The deliverers will ascend Mount Zion to judge the mountain of Esau, and the kingdom will be the Lord’s.” (v.21)*

**Great verses to meditate on regarding PRIDE:** Proverbs 16:18, James 4:6, Galatians 6:3, Proverbs 27:2, 2 Corinthians 10:17-18

### Here are some starting ideas moving our hearts toward a posture of humility:

- Bring a meal to someone who needs it
- Take on a bigger donation than you normally would for VBS snacks this year
- Surprise outdoor workers with cold water or popsicles on a hot day
- Find a widow and do an act of service that would bless them
- Babysit for a young family with kids who need a break
- Commit to serving at one of the services for the rest of the summer
- Join God’s Housecare on a Monday morning (6:00 - 9:00 am) this summer
- Pay for the person behind you at your next drive-thru or eating experience

## Seven Subtle Symptoms of Pride

In his essay on undetected pride, Jonathan Edwards points out seven sneaky symptoms of the infection of pride. This excerpt was taken from a blog posting from “desiringgod.org” on July 15, 2015.

**1. Fault-Finding** - While pride causes us to filter out the evil we see in ourselves, it also causes us to filter out God’s goodness in others. We sift them, letting only their faults fall into our perception of them. When I’m sitting in a sermon or studying a passage, it’s pride that prompts the terrible temptation to skip the Spirit’s surgery on my own heart and instead draft a mental blog post or plan a potential conversation for the people who “really need to hear this.”

**“The spiritually proud person shows it in his finding fault with others...the eminently humble Christian has so much to do at home and sees so much evil in his own that he is not apt to be very busy with other hearts.” - Edwards**

**2. A Harsh Spirit** - Those who have the sickness of pride in their hearts speak of others’ sin with contempt, irritation, frustration, or judgment. Pride is crouching inside our belittling of the struggles of others. It’s cowering in our jokes about the ‘craziness’ of our spouse. It may even be lurking in the prayers we throw upward for our friends that are – subtly or not – tainted with exasperated irritation.

**“Christians who are but fellow-worms ought at least to treat one another with as much humility and gentleness as Christ treats them.” - Edwards**

**3. Superficiality** - When pride lives in our hearts, we’re far more concerned with others’ perceptions of us than the reality of our hearts. We fight sins that have an impact on how others view us, and make peace with the ones that no one sees. We have great success in the areas of holiness that have highly visible accountability, but little concern for the disciplines that happen in secret.

**4. Defensiveness** - Those who stand in the strength of Christ’s righteousness alone find a confident hiding place from the attacks of men and Satan alike. True humility is not knocked off balance and thrown into a defensive posture by challenge or rebuke, but instead continues in doing good, entrusting the soul to our faithful Creator.

**“For the humble Christian, the more the world is against him, the more silent and still he will be, unless it is in his prayer closet, and there he will not be still.” - Edwards**

**5. Presumption Before God** - Humility approaches God with humble assurance in Christ Jesus. If either the “humble” or the “assurance” are missing in that equation, our hearts very well might be infected with pride. Some of us have no shortage of boldness before God, but if we’re not careful, we can forget that He is God. Others of us feel no confidence before God. Which sounds like humility, but in reality it’s another symptom of pride. In those moments, we’re testifying that we believe our sins are greater than his grace. We doubt the power of Christ’s blood and we’re stuck staring at ourselves instead of Christ.

**“Some, in their great rejoicing before God, have not paid sufficient regard to that rule in Psalm 2:11 – ‘Worship the Lord with reverence, and rejoice with trembling.’” - Edwards**

**6. Desperation for Attention** - Pride is hungry for attention, respect, and worship in all its forms. Maybe it sounds like shameless boasting about ourselves. Maybe it’s being unable to say “no” to anyone because we need to be needed. Maybe it looks like obsessively thirsting for marriage – or fantasizing about a better marriage – because you’re hungry to be adored. Maybe it looks like being haunted by your desire for the right car or the right house or the right title at work: all because you seek the glory that comes from men, not God.

**7. Neglecting Others** - Pride prefers some people over others. It honors those who the world deems worthy of honor, giving more weight to their words, their wants, and their needs. There’s a thrill that goes through me when people with “power” acknowledge me. We consciously or unconsciously pass over the weak, the inconvenient, and the unattractive, because they don’t seem to offer us much.

**Maybe more of us struggle with pride than we thought.** There’s good news for the prideful. Confession of pride signals the beginning of the end for pride. It indicates the war is already being waged. When the Spirit of God is moving, already humbling us, we remove the lenses of pride from our eyes and see ourselves clearly, identifying the sickness and seeking the cure. Just as my concealed pride once moved me toward death, so the acknowledgement of my own pride moves me toward life by causing me to cling more fiercely to the righteousness of Christ.

**“Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!” (Psalm 139:23–24)**