**Balancing Respect for Self and Others: Selfish Pride vs. Humility**

Selfish Pride is the habit of thinking too much of ourselves, having too much regard for our worth, importance, intelligence, charm, looks, etc. The flip side of that coin is insecurity, which is a constant undercurrent for vain people. It erupts to the surface at times of failure and rejection. For others, it stays on top in the way they act and treat themselves as worthless. They could appreciate their worth if they didn’t keep expecting themselves to be and do more than they can (that’s from underlying superiority). The following scriptures explain the causes, consequences, and corrections of this attitude of Selfish Pride, as well as its positive counterpart, genuine Humility.

**CAUSES**

1. Pretending “I am alone. No one sees me. There is no God.” **Isaiah 47: 8-11**

2. Denying the world was created by God, and in place of God, idolizing something or

someone that was created. **Rom 1: 21-32**

3. “Praying” to self instead of God. **Lk 18: 9-14**

4. Taking credit for God’s gifts. **Prov 27:21,** **Rom 12: 3**

5. Trusting in one’s own moral purity and will power to impress God. **Job 25: 1, 4-6; 27: 1,**

**4- 6; 38: 1-4; 42: 1-6**

6. Trying to impress others. **Matt 6: 16-18; 23: 4-12**

7. Fooling oneself into believing that others are impressed. **Luke 14: 7-11**

**CONSEQUENCES -** There is always a fall - what blows up, must come down. **Prov 16:18, 18:12**

1. God will show us who he is. **Job 42: 1-6**

2. If this is denied, God gives people up to their own lusts and depraved minds. **Rom 1:**

**21-32**

3. God does not answer prayer, or give expected rewards. **Mt 6: 16-18**

4. Selfish Pride evokes the judgmental side of others. **Mt 7:1**

5. Proud people embarrass and humiliate themselves; they look ridiculous when exposed.

 **Mt 7: 2-5, Luke 14: 17-24**

6. They deceive themselves. **Gal 6:3 and Rom 1:21-25**

7. Other people reject them, and they don’t know why. **Isaiah 47: 8-11**

8. Selfish Pride, the chief of the seven deadly sins, has always been considered basic, leading

to all the others. **Rom 1: 21-32**

9. The humble, on the other hand, are exalted, both in this life (**Luke 14: 7-11; 18:9-14)**

and the next (**Mt 5: 3, 5**).

**CORRECTIONS --** Discipline is given by God (see verses above), which is accepted and extended

 (through self-discipline) by the humble. Here’s how:

Meditate on **Psalm 51.** Make it your prayer.

Try not to judge others. **Mt 7:1, Rom 14: 4**

Appreciate God’s gifts. Be thankful for them, and don’t steal God’s glory. **Rom 12: 3**

Associate with people who are “beneath you.” **Rom 12:16**

Esteem others even more than self. Follow Christ’s example: turn down the quest for fame,

and take up the role of servant. **Phil 2: 3-9**

 Humility is a gift, the fruit of the Spirit (meekness – **Gal 5: 22-23**). It can be expressed and

 practiced once it is given, but it cannot be created by self-discipline alone.