Principles of Arrogance

1) Preliminary considerations.
   a) Within the canon of Scripture, the subject of arrogance is treated extensively.
   b) Pride and arrogance was manifested in the angelic realm prior to human history (e.g. the fall of Satan, Ezek. 28:12-17).
   c) Arrogance is a feeling or an impression of superiority manifested in an overbearing manner or presumptuous claims.\(^1\)
   d) The one who is arrogant or prideful typically exhibits an attitude of superiority and disdain towards those he considers unworthy.
   e) Synonyms and related terms in English include: pride, egotism, self-glory, self importance, conceit, haughtiness, disdain, etc.
   f) Arrogance begins in the mental attitude under the influence of the OSN and is often manifested in overt behavior (e.g. boasting cf. Mark 7:21-23).
   g) Also, arrogance is demonstrated by disobedience to God’s commandments (cf. Neh. 9:29).
   h) Whether in the MA or through some overt exhibition, arrogance is unequivocally condemned in Scripture (cf. James 4:16, 1 Peter 5:5).
   i) God punishes those who are arrogant, both unbelievers and believers (cf. Psa. 101:5, Prov. 16:5, 18).

2) Arrogance is a byproduct of the OSN and is initially exhibited in the mental attitude (cf. 2 Chron. 26:16, 2 Cor 12:20).

3) The bulk of humanity is under the domination of their OSN. Consequently, the world, especially in the last days, is permeated with arrogance and blatant self-exaltation (e.g. sports, “gay pride,” Rom. 1:25-32, 2 Tim. 3:1-5).

4) Believers are not to get swept up in the hype and boastful pride of life in the cosmos (1 John 2:15-16 cf. 2 Tim. 4:10, 1 Peter 5:6).
   a) We, as believers, must direct our focus and energy on our spiritual growth.
   b) The adjusted CA believer will seek to exploit his privileged position in Christ. This is accomplished through the consistent intake and application of sound doctrine.
   c) The believer who fails to prioritize his life in accordance with the clear commands of Scripture and is captivated by “the things in the world” sets himself up for spiritual ruin (e.g. inconsistent attendance in Bible class in order to pursue job, career, education, etc.).
   d) The rational believer recognizes that “the things of world”, although very attractive, are also very superficial and will not satisfy.
   e) As believers we must see the importance of doctrine and its efficacy (cf. Prov. 3:15, Col. 2:5).

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\(^1\) The Merriam Webster Reference Library Windows 95, version 3.1.1.400., s.v. “Arrogance” (Dallas: Zane, 1997).
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f) Our position is unique. We have been delivered from “the domain of darkness” and transferred into the kingdom of Christ through faith in Christ (Col. 1:13-14).

g) Despite our continued physical residence in the world, we are now viewed as citizens of His kingdom (cf. Eph. 2:19, Phil. 3:20).

h) We must not think and behave as we did when we lived in the realm of darkness (Rom. 12:2, Eph. 5:11, Col. 3:2, 1 Peter 1:14-16).

5) In addition to individuals, nations are described in a derogatory sense as arrogant or proud.
   a) National arrogance is manifested when a nation adheres to an agenda(s) which violates God’s directive will. If perpetuated, the arrogance will lead to judgment (Isa. 37:21-29, Jer. 50:29-32, Rev. 18:7-8).
   b) In contrast, a nation is properly exalted through righteousness (Prov. 13:34 cf. Jonah 3:10).

6) As previously pointed out, an individual may exhibit pride internally, in the MA. However, arrogance may also be demonstrated externally in one’s speech and actions.
   a) Speech (1 Sam. 2:3, Dan. 4:30-37 cf. Prov. 30:32).

7) Some areas of pride:
   a) Strength, physical abilities, military prowess (cf. Lev. 26:19, Judges 7:2).
   b) Beauty, appearance (2 Cor. 5:12, cf. the fall of Satan, Ezekiel 28:17 "Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor. I cast you to the ground; I put you before kings, That they may see you.").
   c) Prosperity, money (Psa. 49:6, Ezek. 28:5, Hosea 13:6, 1 Tim. 6:17).
   f) Geographical location (cf. John 1:46).

8) There are an abundance of principles in Scripture concerning arrogance that a believer ought to have in his “doctrinal” frame of reference. Some principles include:
   a) The failure to obey doctrine is arrogant (cf. Neh. 9:16).
   b) Many in the world manifest arrogance by not seeking God even to the point of denying His existence (cf. Psa. 10:4).
   d) The believer must not exalt himself as do many in the world.
   e) Instead, the faithful, obedient believer will be exalted by God. Such a believer may be enhanced in honor, fame, position, power, or financial prosperity (Josh. 3:7, 4:14, Psa. 37:34, 1 Chron. 14:2, 29:25, James 4:10).
   f) Emulate God’s attitude toward pride, arrogance, and evil...hate it (Prov. 8:13).
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g) The believer is not be conceited about his intellectual abilities and academic achievements (cf. Prov. 26:12, Phil 3:4-5, also Acts 26:24).
h) In certain cases, God may afflict a believer in order to prevent arrogance (2 Cor. 12:7).
i) If a believer has prospered financially and materially, he must not be prideful and attribute his wealth solely to his own effort.
j) Instead the believer must recognize God supplied it (1 Timothy 6:17). Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. cf. Job 1:1-3, 10, 21, 42:10-12).
k) Those who are conceited commonly stir up strife (Prov. 28:25, cf. Prov. 13:10, where “presumption” is pride or insolence).
l) We are not to boast or speak with insolent pride (Psalm 75:4-7 "I said to the boastful, 'Do not boast,' And to the wicked, 'Do not lift up the horn; Do not lift up your horn on high, Do not speak with insolent pride.'" For not from the east, nor from the west, Nor from the desert comes exaltation; But God is the Judge; He puts down one, and exalts another.).
m) Especially among members of the LC (Gal. 5:26 cf. Rom. 10:12, 1 Cor. 12:13, Col. 3:11).
n) The believer who blindly follows his own plans without initially considering God’s directive will is arrogant (James 4:13-16).
o) False teachers are characterized by self will and arrogance (2 Peter 2:1-20 cf. false prophets, Deut.18:20, 22).
p) Conversely the adjusted communicators of doctrine should exhibit a lack of self-will and arrogance (Titus 1:7).
q) We must not be motivated by pride or conceit to make various applications in our niches (Phil 2:3).
s) Dishonor comes with pride (Prov. 11:2-3).
t) The one who is proud will be humiliated (Prov. 29:23).
u) Pride goes before destruction (Prov. 16:18).
   i) The term “destruction” (דְַעֲרָתָם, sheber) commonly refers to a break, breach, or collapse.
   ii) In Prov. 16:18, the term is expressive of physical calamity on a personal level (cf. Prov. 18:12).
v) God uses severity in His dealings with the arrogant.
   i) Pride is particularly offensive to God (Prov. 16:5 cf. Prov. 8:13).
   ii) The punishment of the conceited and arrogant by God is assured.
   iii) He will not put up with arrogance in the MA (Psalm 101:5 Whoever secretly slanders his neighbor, him I will destroy; No one who has a haughty look and an arrogant heart will I endure.).
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iv) He will tear down the house of the proud (i.e. the proud will be ruined, Prov. 15:25 cf. Prov. 12:7, 14:11).

v) He will rebuke those who go astray from the principles of sound doctrine, the arrogant (Psa. 119:21).

vi) In legal matters during the Age of Israel, a verdict rendered by a Levitical priest or judge was binding. Moreover, the one who didn’t listen to the priest or judge manifested insolence and was to be put to death (Deut. 17:9-13).


2) In general, disobedience to one’s authorities invites DD (cf. Num. 26:9, Deut. 11:6).

vii) In the future, those who are arrogant will be overthrown by God (Isa. 2:11-12, 13:11).

9) Concluding remarks.

a) In our world the majority of mankind is dominated their OSN.

b) Consequently, mental arrogance, sinful boasting, and arrogant conduct pervade our world at every level of society.

c) The wise believer will recognize this fact and staunchly refuse to be carried away by the “boastful pride of life.”

d) We are citizens of heaven and as such should manifest a witness of the life sans any form of arrogance.

e) Additionally the believer is to emulate God and hate pride.

f) We must be careful to recognize that it is ultimately God who prospers us in our niches.

g) Quite simply God will judge all those who are arrogant or conceited.

h) Great intelligence, good looks, worldly accolades and achievements does not commend a believer to God.

i) Nor do these attributes give a believer an advantage in gaining the wreath.

j) Due to God’s grace, the CWL is a level playing field. Each believer in the CA has the same opportunity for spiritual advancement.

k) It is the responsibility of each believer to exploit every opportunity for spiritual growth (e.g. Bible class, testing in our lives).

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