

CONCEIT

PRECEPT

2 TIMOTHY 3:1-5

¹ But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: ² For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³ unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, ⁴ traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

PROMISE

Conceit comes in many forms and names, but it has only one end: self-glorification. A conceited person seeks to praise and exalt himself, and not God. In particular, platforms like social media—created to build connection—are now often used for self-absorption; as a result, we are cocooning, turning inward, and living for self alone. The colloquial term me-ism describes it all. It is a problem in our world, but it also impacts and influences us as Christians because it is so subtle and powerful that we don't see it creeping into our lives. Conceit is so consumed with ourselves that it causes us to take our eyes off Jesus; it refuses to humble itself, and to ask for forgiveness, or to offer forgiveness. How do we protect ourselves from conceit?

DETHRONE ME. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 says, "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body." We do not belong to ourselves, for we are dependent on the one true God. He bought us and set us free from the pursuit of me idols. We are dead to our me God and alive in Christ.

OUR MOTIVATIONS ARE NOT TO BE OUT OF OUR OWN EGO. Philippians 2:3 tells, "Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility, consider one another as more important than yourselves." Empty conceit, meaning vain glory, is the root cause of selfish ambitions, and humility is the antidote for pride and conceit. Humility is a virtue that every child of God should pursue.

SERVE ONE ANOTHER IS LOVE. Philippians 2:4 notes, "Do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others." Instead of concentrating on ourselves and upping one another, we should be concerned for the interests of others.

SUBMIT TO THE EXAMPLE OF JESUS' HUMILITY. Philippians 2:5-8 says, "Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, as He already existed in the form of God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but emptied Himself by taking the form of a bond-servant and being born in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death: death on a cross." Jesus is the ultimate model of humility for us by giving up more than we can even imagine. We are not just to follow Him, but completely submit to Jesus.

The Promises of Humility, humility gets God's attention, Isaiah 66:2b tells, "This is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word." He is aware of all things and can do all things. Humility attracts God's grace, James 4:6 says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." He gives grace generously, and God is drawn to humility. He is personally and providentially supportive of the humble.

PRACTICE

1. **Conceit.** What is something you've done that you feel proud of, and how do you ensure that pride doesn't turn into arrogance?

2. **Give thoughts.** What does God want you to shift your focus on? And how can we pray/encourage you regarding this?

PRAYER

I. Family

- Pray that our homes be filled with God's presence, peace, unity, love, and joy.

II. Mental health

- Let's ask for God's healing touch to those who are in need of it.

III. Lost

- Pray that we will lead the lost to God's salvation, and transforming power.

IV. Gospel

- May God empower us to live out His truth and spread the Word to all nations.

V. Faith

- Pray that we will deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Jesus at all times.

VI. Love

- Pray that the body of Christ would faithfully show love to a hurting world in His Name.

VII. Provision

- Pray that we may remain grateful and to use what we receive with generosity.