

# Twins of Destruction

## Part 1, Pride

1 Peter 5:5-7

**Rock Hill Baptist Church**  
**605 Rock Hill Road**  
**Lexington, Tennessee 38351**

**Pastor David Buffaloe**  
**731-845-6104**  
**online at [bibleteacher.org](http://bibleteacher.org)**



**FOCAL Read Responsively** 1 Peter 5:5-7 Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all [of you] be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. **(6) Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: (7) Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.**

You have all heard stories of people who took dangerous animals into their homes when those animals were mere babes - and who lived to regret their decision when that animal grew up. I heard of a man who took a boa constrictor into his house as a pet. This man loved this snake, fed it, and often played with the snake before he went to bed at night. When the man went missing from his job for a few days authorities visited his house and found the man dead in his own bed. What killed him? It was believed that he decided to sleep with the snake that night and, while he slept, that creature coiled around his chest, killing him.

A baby porcupine may look cute in the woods, but beware of clutching it to your heart. A baby bear may look like the stuffed kind you find in your department stores, but it's best to remember that baby critters grow up to be big grizzly bears.

Two of the greatest killers of man are not wild animals, but they are just as terrible. Two of our greatest killers are *pride* and *worry*. These two critters are carried home every day in the hearts of people, nursed, raised up, and eventually they lead unto death. The sin of Satan was pride. He was one of the most beautiful and powerful

angels that God had ever created. One day Satan began to look at himself pridefully, and he forgot Who made him. Satan said:

**Isaiah 14:13-15 ... I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the [angels] of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: (14) I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High [God].**

**“Oh, how beautiful I am! How powerful I am! I can be like God!”** These are the thoughts and words of the one who would, in the words of Isaiah, (verse 15) **“be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit”**.

**Proverbs 16:18 Pride [goeth] before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.**

The chief of angels became the chief of the cursed. Pride stands in its own power,, saying to God “You are not God – I am God!” How foolish!

Closely related to pride is another critter of the soul we call “worry”. How do we know these two are related? Because the Lord relates the two in our above verse. **Casting all your care upon Him, for He careth for**

**you.** Pride says “I can do this without God”, whereas worry says “I must do this without God”. Pride says “I am as good and able as God” whereas worry says “I am not able – but no one else is able either”. Pride wraps its hand around a thing and hold it up under its own power. Worry wraps its hand around a thing and refuses to surrender it to the Greater Power of God. Both emotions – and their accompanying actions – are not only sinful, but they are destructive. Pride causes the young person to experiment with drugs and sex, and generally leads to terrible destruction. Worry robs the life – even the Christian life – of joy and peace. How do we avoid these *twins of destruction*, pride and worry?

**We submit ourselves unto the Lord.** We trust Him and Him alone with our lives. We turn unto Jesus, and keep our eyes on Him. We do as the Scripture says:

**Hebrews 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of [our] faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.**

Jesus is our example. He did not focus on the moment, on the shiny bauble that Satan offered nor on the trial that was set before Him. He looked to God Who loves with an infinite love, the Father Who never ceases caring for His own. Jesus depended on the relationship that He had with His Father – and we would all do well to follow His example. **Look unto Jesus.** Believe on Him for salvation. **Look unto Jesus.** See the example He has set

for us. **Look unto Jesus.** The things of this life will pass away. The things we pridefully desire will tomorrow lay in the dust. The worries that suck the joy from our lives will one day be but a memory. **Look unto Jesus** – and live by faith in Him!

May God touch your hearts with His Word!

### **Pride Destroys That Which It Touches**

**FOCAL** 1 Peter 5:5 Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all [of you] be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

A few years ago the Southern Baptist Convention revised our *Baptist Faith and Message* in the area of marriage. The statement

**“A wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ.”**

was added – and the uproar was heard around the world! “Women submit to their husbands! How dare the Southern Baptists! Don't they know we are in the twenty-first century?” The liberal news channels on television had a field day, and feminist after feminist stood before the microphone to tell off those confused Baptists and their so called “Faith and Message”.

The fact of the matter is that the **BF&M** was modified to

make it more conforming to what the Holy Scripture teaches. If you read the **BF&M Article 18** in context you read these words:

**“The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to lead his family. A wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ.”<sup>1</sup>**

This is no more than what the Scripture *specifically teaches* in:

**Ephesians 5:21-23 Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God. (22) Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. (23) For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the Savior of the body.**

<sup>1</sup> A comparison of the various Baptist Faith and Messages can be found online at <http://www.sbc.net/bfm/bfmcomparison.asp>

What caused the uproar? Pride! When people heard that word “**submit**” alongside of “**wives**” it caused a volcano of rejection – and *no one cared what God's Holy Scripture said.*

Pride, the terrible twin to worry, is man's first sin. Satan came into the Garden and told Adam and Eve:

**Genesis 3:4-5 ... Ye shall not surely die [if you eat of that forbidden fruit] (5) For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.**

It doesn't matter what God said – what YOU BELIEVE is what really matters. Go ahead, taste of that forbidden fruit. Sure, God is your Creator. Sure, God *says* He loves you. Sure, God *pretends that* this is the best thing for you. But YOU know best. Go ahead – eat! What's it going to hurt? C.H. Spurgeon said:

**“PRIDE is so natural to fallen man that it springs up in his heart like weeds in a watered garden, or rushes by a flowing brook. It is an all pervading sin, and smothers all things like dust in the roads, or flour in the mill. Its every touch is evil as the breath of the cholera ... If killed it revives, if buried it bursts the tomb. You may hunt down this fox, and think you have destroyed it, and lo! Your very exultation is pride. None have more pride than those who dream that they have none. You may labor against vainglory till you conceive that you are humble, and the fond**

**conceit of your humility will prove to be pride in full bloom. ... Pride is a sin with a thousand lives; it seems impossible to kill it, it flourishes on that which should be its poison, glorying in its shame. It is a sin with a thousand shapes; by perpetual change it escapes capture. ... This is the torch, which kindled hell and set the world on fire.”<sup>2</sup>**

Pride is a terrible thing. Pride caused Joseph's brothers to cast him into a pit and sell him as a slave. Pride caused King David to seek to cover up his adultery with another man's wife by murdering that faithful soldier. Pride drove King Saul to consult with a witch – and many of God's anointed have dabbled with the Evil One because of pride. Pride caused Cain to kill Abel, Pharaoh to murder the Jewish firstborn, Herod Antipas to dash every baby in Bethlehem to their death, Herod to cut off the head of John the Baptist, the Pharisee Saul to chase down and murder Christians until the Lord knocked him down on the Damascus Road. Pride caused Ananias and Sapphira to lie to God and hold their tithe. Pride caused the Corinthian Church to hide an adulterer in their midst (1 Corinthians 5) rather than bring him to justice.

The prodigal son out of arrogance and pride nearly destroyed his life before he returned to the Father. After he returned and was restored, on that very day the prodigal son's brother fell through pride. While the Father rejoiced at the return of the prodigal, the Bible says his brother was ...

<sup>2</sup> From *On Humbling Ourselves Before God*, a sermon by C.H. Spurgeon my hero in the faith, number 1733 preached at the Metropolitan Tabernacle, Newington.

Luke 15:28 ... **angry, and would not go in; therefore came his father out,** and intreated him.

Pride robbed the brother of a great party, and ruined the reunion for everyone else.

Pride in the unbelieving world causes wars, destroys families, and – like a poisonous jellyfish – cannot be touched without leaving a stinger behind. Pride is particularly terrible in the Church! It dims the light of the Church every time it rears its ugly head. Pride causes fights in Churches as first one member then the other tries to exert their authority. **Churches divide while unbelievers, condemned in their sins, (John 3:18) stand outside mocking us while missing out on the so important message of God in Christ.**

You will never find pride justified *anywhere* in the Word of God. Our text states:

**FOCAL** 1 Peter 5:5 Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all [of you] be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for **God resisteth<sup>3</sup> the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.**

The word **resisteth** in our text is the Greek,

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3 Present Middle Indicative of G498, ἀντιτάσσομαι, antitassomai, *an-tee-tas'-som-ahee*, From G473 and the middle of G5021; to *range oneself against*, that is, *oppose*: - oppose themselves, resist.

ἀντιτάσσομαι, antitassomai, pronounced *an-tee-tas'-som-ahee*) which literally means to **stand against or oppose**. The Amplified Version of the Holy Scripture translates the sentence this way:

**“For God sets Himself against the proud (the insolent, the overbearing, the disdainful, the presumptuous, the boastful)--[and He opposes, frustrates, and defeats them], but gives grace (favor, blessing) to the humble.”**

Think about that. The *Almighty God sets HIMSELF* not an angel, not a demon, but HIMSELF against the prideful person. King **Nebuchadnezzar** in pride set up a **golden image of himself** before his nation and demanded that all fall down and worship him. When the three Hebrew children refused to worship Nebuchadnezzar angrily demanded an accounting:

Daniel 3:14 ... **O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, do not ye serve my gods, nor worship the golden image which I have set up? ...**

God vindicated Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and protected them from the fiery furnace – but it wasn't long before Nebuchadnezzar was out in the field eating *grass like a dumb ox*. **God stands against the proud so as to defeat them – but gives grace to the humble.** The knee

willing to bow in humility to God and to his fellow man belongs to the person who will ultimately be lifted up by God.

A snake crawling out of a hole in the ground is a disturbing image, but even more disturbing is the snake that crawls from between your own bed covers! Pride in others is terrible, but pride in ourselves should be regarded with greatest horror. **God cannot fill the mouth of the person who is already full of himself!** We must remember that **God stands against the proud, but gives Grace to the humble.**

**A** If you will rise to God, sink to yourself. God cannot save the person who will not admit sickness. The Pharisees and Sadducees were so filled with their own righteousness that *they rejected the righteousness of Christ*. They said to the Lord:

**Matthew 9:11 ... Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners?**

The implication is “if Jesus your Master were *really* of God, He's be spending more time with *us* – the *holy ones* – than He spends with the prostitutes and tax collectors”. Jesus replied simply:

**Matthew 9:12-13 ... They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. (13) But go ye and learn what [that] meaneth, I will have mercy, and not**

**sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.**

If you're proud, if you think your righteousness will stand before the Almighty God, then Jesus has nothing for you. Those who are Christians *know* that they cannot stand before the God of all creation dressed in our own righteousness! We *must* stand before Him, must be ...

**Philippians 3:9 ... found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:**

This is what saves, faith in the *purchased righteousness of Christ*, faith in that *free gift of God*. Unless you will bend the knee to God you will *never see Heaven*.

Rise to God by sinking to yourself. Be like Jesus your Master Who says:

**Matthew 20:25-28 ... Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. (26) But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; (27) And whosoever will be**

**chief among you, let him be your servant: (28) Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.**

Do you want to be great in Almighty God's eyes? Then do as He did. He came and gave Himself for you and for I. We are commanded to give ourselves to one another.

**B** If you will rise to God, stay your tongue. Think before you speak. You do not belong to yourselves, but if saved are **Ambassadors for God (2 Corinthians 5:20)**. If you are saved then you are to **represent God your Savior to a lost and dying world**. We are told:

**1 Corinthians 6:20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.**

I have been guilty many times in my life of letting somebody *get my goat* and, in response, at those times I have not honored my Lord the way that I should have. If I am a cherished possession of the Lord (and He purchased me at a great price) then I should remember that He will protect that which He has suffered and died for. The Christian should *keep his goat where no one can get at it!* **King Solomon**, the wisest man who ever lived, said:

**Proverbs 25:28 He that [hath] no rule over**

**his own spirit [is like] a city [that is] broken down, [and] without walls.**

How descriptive that is! In the ancient world a **city without walls** was subject to be attacked and destroyed by roving thieves and rapists. The wall around the city kept out evil. **Let God be your wall**. Trust Him, submit to Him, be humble.

**FOCAL 1 Peter 5:6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:**

God will lift you up in time – if you only trust in Him.

**C** Be willing to be ignored. Pride came about in Satan because *he wanted to be seen of angels*. “**Look at me, see how pretty I am!**”! The Pharisees are today in hell because they were more concerned about what others thought than what God thought. Jesus said of these sad men:

**Matthew 6:2-6 Therefore when thou doest [thine] alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. (3) But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand**

**know what thy right hand doeth: (4) That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly. (5) And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites [are]: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. (6) But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.**

When you tithe or give to God, **do it secretly**. Don't do it so as to be seen of men, but give so as to please your Heavenly Father. When you pray, **don't do it for show**. Jesus Christ Himself prayed in public (see **John 17**), but He never prayed for show or out of pride. He prayed because He *loved speaking to His Father*.

Be willing to be ignored. Be willing that *no one know the good you have done*. **When Jesus healed the leper** He told him:

**Matthew 8:4 ... See thou tell no man; but go thy way, shew thyself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them.**

And when our Lord stood on the Mount of Transfiguration with Moses and Elijah He said:

**Matthew 17:9 ... Tell the vision to no man, until the Son of man be risen again from the dead.**

When Jesus healed the deaf and dumb man He told those who saw it:

**Mark 7:36 ... that they should tell no man: but the more he charged them, so much the more a great deal they published [it];**

and when Jesus raised the little girl from the dead He said to the parents:

**Luke 8:56 ... that they should tell no man what was done.**

Think about that, and compare *the magnitude of what Jesus did* with the *humility the Savior possesses*. **He healed lepers, the deaf, and brought the dead back to life. God honored Him time and time again** and Jesus Christ, God Incarnate, was willing to receive no publicity for it. And because He humbled Himself ...

**Philippians 2:8-11 ... and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. (9) Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which**

**is above every name: (10) That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow**, of [things] in heaven, and [things] in earth, and [things] under the earth; **(11) And [that] every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ [is] Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

**D** Do something to serve someone else outside of your own immediate family. It is no great thing to serve your family – this is expected. Those you love are easiest to serve. The Bible tells us:

**FOCAL** 1 Peter 5:5 Likewise, **ye younger, submit<sup>4</sup> yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all [of you] be subject<sup>5</sup> one to another**, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

The younger believer is commanded to **submit to the elder**. There is a reason for this. The elder in the Lord has been down the path of life and has seen the pitfalls. Submit to those who are **elder in Christ**. But the Apostle doesn't stop here, but goes on to say **all of you keep on being in submission to one another**. Lift one another up. If you are saved, you are part of the Body of Christ. Each part is in some way subject to the other. We either

4 Aorist Passive Imperative (a command) of G5293, ὑποτάσσω, hupotassō, *hoop-ot-as'-so*, From G5259 and G5021; to *subordinate*; reflexively to *obey*: - be under obedience (obedient), put under, subdue unto, (be, make) subject (to, unto), be (put) in subjection (to, under), submit self unto.

5 Present Passive Participle of #3, above

go forward *together* or we go backward *together*.

The way to humility is *through service*. Jesus gave us the example when He washed the feet of the disciples. He said:

**John 13:14-15 If I then, [your] Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. (15) For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.**

Serve one another. Love is not love unless it is expressed. Love the unlovable. Love your enemies. Love your Church family. Love the Lord. We are but the clay – **He alone is the Potter**. How shall our unsaved friends and family be saved if they do not see us bow the knee to God and to one another? The pride you cling to may lead to the death of another. If you know Him to be Savior, then submit all to Him as Lord.

**E** Salvation can only be yours by humbling yourself under God's hand. Pride has sent many people to hell *forever*.

**Illustrate** Many years ago a certain prince visited the Spanish galleys, where a large number of convicts were confined, chained to their oars to toil on without relief; - I think nearly all of them condemned to a life sentence. Being a great prince, the King of Spain told him that he might in honor of his visit set free anyone

of the galley slaves he chose. He went down among them to choose his man. He said to one, “Man, how did you come here?” He replied that false witnesses swore away his character. “Ah!” said the prince and passed on. He went to the next, who stated that he had done something that was wrong certainly, but not very much, and that he never ought to have been condemned. “Ah!” said the prince, and again passed on. He went the round, and found that they were all good fellows—all convicted by mistake. At last he came to one who said, “You ask me why I came here. I am ashamed to say that I richly deserve it. I am guilty, I cannot for a moment say that I am not: and if I die at this hour, I thoroughly deserve the punishment. In fact, I think it a mercy that my life is spared me.” The prince stopped and said, “It is a pity that such a bad fellow as you should be placed amongst such a number of innocent people. I will set you free.”

Admit yourself to be a sinner. Turn unto Christ, believing that He died for you and rose again – and you shall be saved.

We will discuss **the twin of pride, “worry”, tonight**. I pray that God has touched your hearts with His Word.



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