

**THEME: SEVEN DEADLY CONTROLLERS**

**TOPIC: PRIDE**

**TEXT: ROMANS 8:5-8, 14 NLT, JAMES 4:6, PROVERBS 16:5**

### **Introduction**

As Christians, we know that God made us in his image as a tripartite creation – we are spirit beings, we have a soul and live in a body. The order in which this is listed is important because as new creatures in Christ, our spirit man should lead, not our soul or body (flesh). Romans 8:5-8.

Yet the power of the flesh is undeniable and many Christians live what we would call sub-optimal lives because they struggle with a number of issues that arise because of occasional or frequent lapses into carnality; these lapses can be deadly.

Today we are starting a new series on the “Seven Deadly Controllers”, which wants to hinder us from living and walking in the Spirit as new creatures in Christ.

Controllers are whatever controls you, and directs your actions and reactions to circumstances and situations in life. Whatever controls you has power over you.

The first of our consideration for the Seven Deadly Controllers is pride. There is good pride. However, our first focus is how deadly and destructive it is when pride takes a negative toll or slant.

### **What is Pride? (Proverbs 8:13)**

The scripture present pride as idolatry, a form of self-worship when people become narcissistic and focus on themselves and their own abilities.

Remember that with idolatry, it means taking away the worship, adulation, adoration which God deserves and directing it elsewhere. If pride therefore is idolatry, it means it is a form of **self-worship**.

This makes pride a deadly sin in that which brings one against God. That must be the reason why God has chosen to look at the proud afar off. **Job 40:11, Psalm 138:6**

1. Pride is an arrogant or disdainful conduct or treatment of other people. It is an attitude of haughtiness and a feeling of superiority. The proud have a habit of wanting to feel that they have to treat other people lesser in order to feel confident in themselves. **Psalm 101:5**

2. Pride is conceited, it is the feeling that one must see everything around him as below and therefore treating everyone as less. It is not only a treatment of other people as less, pride has a contempt for other people. **Romans 12:10**

**Q:** Is it possible to be a believer and be prideful?

3. Pride is the opposite of the Spirit of Christ. He taught us to love one another.

**John 13:34, 1 Corinthians 13:8**

Jesus said love was the finality and the fulfilment of the law. You could not be proud and walk in love because true love is valuing, appreciating other people even in matters of differences of opinion, viewpoint and general worldview.

**Q:** Is it safe to say that pride is not a fruit of the spirit?

4. Pride leads to insolent self-exaltation even in matters where such a person may not be the best. However having engaged their mind in the false feeling of superiority the proud make it obvious to everyone as to how they feel. **Romans 12:16**

**Q:** How does one guard against being insolent as a believer?

5. Pride leads into a presumptuous self-confidence. **Proverbs 16:18**

There is a good and wholesome self-confidence. This is helpful and necessary for making progress in life, making impact at work and enjoying a wholesome life but the presumptuous self-confidence is such that goes before a fall.

**Q:** how do you balance being confident and walking along the pride alley?

6. Pride lords it over other people. Consider Lucifer who said he would have to exalt his throne above the throne of God in order to feel his sense of value.

**Isaiah 14:13.**

**Q:** How does this contrast with the principle of servant leadership?

## **Conclusion**

Once a person is engaged in pride, they treat people, places, and things with such abhorrence. They feel everyone is beneath them and unworthy of them.

They consider the time and other things they give you as what you do not deserve and you should be grateful you had it.

Pride made the devil discontented with the lofty position God had placed him as Lucifer, the angel of light and worship. He was the first messenger of heaven.

However the position was no longer enough for him. He wanted God's position.

Pride is vanity (Psalm 138:6) – Often times, the proud put on an attitude that shows vanity. They are vain about their achievements, the things they have seen in life, the educational acquisitions, and the things they own.