

# PRIDE:

**Relying on one's own strength and wisdom**



Pride destroys marriages. It is an insidious evil that entered into the human race in the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve bought into the lie that they could be like God. Pride prevails today; we don't have to look very far to see it - in the people around us and at times in our spouse. But do we look at ourselves? Do we examine our words and actions? Do we rely on God or do we rely on our own wisdom, strength, and what we think we know? Friends, we see pride rear its ugly head in our own marriage when we dig in heels and take a stand base on our knowledge in a disagreement or argument. We see pride in virtual *every* couple that comes for counseling. This should not be so!

We all must contend with pride in our lives and how it affects our marriage relationship. Because of the "fall," pride came into the human race and has affected every human being since. The evil seen throughout the ages; the wars and bloodshed among the nations, the selfishness and suffering, the vain ambitions and jealousies, the broken hearts and embittered lives with all its unhappiness and misery stems from this cursed pride; ours own pride or that of others. Our anger, impatience; our arguments and problems in our marriages comes from this sin called pride.

Our problem is that we tend to think we are *something* - that we deserve to be treated *right* or have a *right* to position or place or honor. If we call ourselves *Christians*, we have to give ALL of that up! As followers of Jesus, we are to live as His redeemed ones, emulating Him. The ONE who left the glories of Heaven, who and emptied Himself gave up His life for us and in between demonstrated the opposite of pride, *humility*. Jesus always looked to the Father - He never did anything on His own, but only what the Father would have Him do. We are not to rely on our own strength and wisdom - what do we have when compared to the God of the universe? We are to empty ourselves and live a humble life; relying on God for everything.

## **Helpful Resources:**

***Fortified Marriages Resource page: [www.fortifiedmarriages.com](http://www.fortifiedmarriages.com) - The Fortified Marriages Manual & Workbook is a great resource to help you understand your spouse better.***

**Book to check out: *Humility; The Journey Toward Holiness* by Andrew Murray**

## **Articles to check out:**

***Selfish-Pride: The Marriage Killer* by Gio and Suzy Llerena - [www.christianfamilylife.com](http://www.christianfamilylife.com)  
*How To Deal With Pride In Marriage* by Brad & Heidi Mitchell - [www.marriage.com](http://www.marriage.com)**