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Love is Not Proud

13: 4e

The next link in the chain is that **love is not proud** (Greek: *physioutai*). When **pride** puffs up the heart, **arrogance** naturally follows. **Pride** forgets its own place and fails to respect others; **love** forgets its own place, but is thoughtful of others. **Paul, himself**, is a good example. No matter where **he** was, among friends or foes, before common people or before **kings**, **he** always knew how to conduct **himself**, so even **kings** were compelled to respect **him**.⁴⁰⁸



The Corinthian believers thought **they** had arrived at perfection (see *Perfectionism* by B. B. Warfield). **Paul** had already warned **them not to go beyond what the TaNaKh says**, proudly taking the side of one leader against another. After all, what makes you so special? What do you have that you didn't receive as a gift? And if in fact it was a gift, why do you boast as if it weren't? You are filled already? You are rich already? You have become kings, even though we are not? Well, I wish you really were kings, so that we might share the kingship with you (4:6-8)! Becoming even more sarcastic, he declared: For the Messiah's sake we [apostles] are fools, but united with the Messiah you are wise! We are weak, but you are strong; you are honored, but we are dishonored (4:10)? Obviously not! A few verses later, **the apostle** is even more direct: When I didn't come to visit you, some of you became arrogant (4:18). In fact, six of

the seven occurrences of the verb *to be proud* in the B'rit Chadashsh appear in this letter.



They greatly overvalued the opinion **they** had of **themselves**. Instead of seeing themselves as lowly pawns, they viewed themselves as mighty **kings**. Everything good that **the Corinthians** had, came from **the King**; therefore, **they** had no reason to be **proud** or **arrogant** about anything. Yet, **they** were **puffed up** and conceited about **their** knowledge of doctrine, **their** spiritual gifts, and the famous teachers **they** had had. **They** were so overestimated about **their pride** that **they** even boasted about **their** carnality, worldliness, idolatry, and immorality, including incest, which was even practiced by pagans. **They** were **arrogant** rather than repentant; **they** bragged more than **they** mourned ([to see link click Ba - Failure to Discipline an Immoral Brother](#)). But in contrast to all of **their pride**, **love is not arrogant**.

William Carey, often referred to as the father of modern missions, was a brilliant linguist, responsible for translating parts of the Bible into no fewer than 34 different languages and dialects. He had been raised in a simple home in England and as a young man worked as a cobbler. In India he was often ridiculed for his “low” birth and former occupation. At a dinner party one evening a snob said to him sarcastically, “I understand, Mister Carey, that you once worked as a shoemaker.” But Carey replied, “Oh no, your lordship, I was not a shoemaker . . . only a shoe repairman.”

*Dear Heavenly **Father**, How wonderful all you did for those who **love You** so they could live eternally with **You** having **Yeshua's righteousness (Second Corinthians 5:21)**! There is*

no room for anyone to have **pride** in salvation, for it is all by **Your grace thru faith, and even this is not our accomplishment, but God's gift (Ephesians 2:8-9)**. **You** so humbly came down as **a man (Philippians 2:5-11)** and bore our sin and shame. As we focus our joy on thanking and pleasing **You**, rewards from this world mean nothing. Life on earth will be over in a blink so how important it is to use the short time we have to prepare our **gift of love for You**.

What a wonderful thought that what we do on earth, with a godly heart attitude, has eternal rewards **(First Corinthians 3:12-14)**. Any reward or crown that we may receive, we choose to give to **You**. Like the twenty-four elders we will **fall down before the One seated on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever. And they throw their crowns down before the throne, chanting, "Worthy are You, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power" (Revelation 4:10-11a)**. **You** are a joy to worship! In **Yeshua's** holy name and power of **His** resurrection. Amen

When **Yeshua** began to preach, **He** soon overshadowed the ministry of **John the Immerser**. Yet **John** spoke of **Him** as **the One who comes after me, whose sandal I am not worthy to untie (John 1:27 NASB)**. When **John's** disciples later became jealous of **Yeshua's** popularity, **John** rebuked **them**, saying: **He must increase, but I must decrease (John 3:30)**.

Like wisdom, **love** says: **I hate pride and arrogance, evil ways and deceitful speech (Proverbs 13:8)**. Other **proverbs** remind us that **first comes pride, then disgrace (Proverbs 11:2a)**, that **disrespect only produces strife (Proverbs 13:10)**, and that **pride goes before destruction, and arrogance before failure (Proverbs 18:18)**. **Pride** and **arrogance** breed contention, which the **Corinthian** church was filled with. **Love** is constructive. **It** builds up the building **(8:1)**; **pride** blows up the building. **Arrogance** is big-headed, whereas **love** is big-hearted.⁴⁰⁹