

“Arrogant Entitlement – Blinded by Selfishness”
5 Blind Spots Blocking God’s Work in You, Part 3
5/31 & 6/3/18

Ads today often send this message: Go out there and get what you **DESERVE**, no matter what it does to others

This kind of thinking causes an **INTERNAL** conflict, because most people know in their hearts what they should and should not do

Philippians 2:3-4 (NLT) “³Don’t be selfish; don’t try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. ⁴Don’t look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.”

When we want to tap into our selfish feelings of entitlement, our consciences need a bridge to justify going from what is right to places we know are wrong – that bridge is **RATIONALIZATION**

Most people feel compelled to rationalize their actions when they do **WRONG**; otherwise their **CONSCIENCES** will sting them

Many feel **ENTITLED** to be happy at all costs, no matter whom it **HURTS**

It is often easy to convince ourselves that our wrong actions are **JUSTIFIABLE**

If you say these things to yourself enough, you will eventually build a bridge that enables you to cross over into **ARROGANT ENTITLEMENT**

Arrogant entitlement is a bottomless pit that can never be **FILLED** – you become a **TAKER**

Arrogant entitlement is an **ADOLESCENT** state of mind

With this state of mind you are always grasping for **MORE** than you have and believing you **DESERVE** all you can get

MATURE adults learn that their adolescent, selfish sense of entitlement **HINDERS** their ability to achieve all that God has in mind for them

Mature adults start doing the things that lead to **POSITIVE LONG-TERM** results; they also broaden their viewpoint from self-absorption to include the **NEEDS** of others

Humility: The Key to Overcoming Arrogant Entitlement

Humility does not **CLIMB** over others; it reaches out to connect with others, appreciating them for **WHO** they are, not for what they can **DO** for you

A humble person desires to use their strength or position to **HELP** others and **MEET** their needs; as a result, the relational blind spot is removed

Rationalization can cause us to believe “God helps those who help **THEMSELVES**” (this is not in the Bible!)

1 Peter 5:6 (NLT) “So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time He will lift you up in honor.”

Jesus, the creator and sustainer of the entire universe, was entitled to **EVERYTHING**, but He demanded **NOTHING**

1 Corinthians 11:24-27 (NIV) “[Paul] ²⁴Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. ²⁵Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, ²⁶I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my fellow Jews, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers. ²⁷I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have

often gone without food; I have been cold and naked.”

Paul humbled himself, and when he could not change his CIRCUMSTANCES, he changed his ATTITUDE

Philippians 4:11-13 (NIV) “I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. ¹²I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through Him [Christ] who gives me strength.”

We are, by our fallen natures, concerned FIRST with our own needs.

We pursue what we want, and when we get it, we feel that we simply got what we were ENTITLED to have. Only when our needs are met, if at all, do we tend to consider the needs of OTHERS. Often it’s only when we hit the wall of isolation and shattered relationships that arrogant entitlement inevitably brings, that we are open to CHANGE

Humility will not come EASY at first – you must COMMIT yourself to it

It takes practice, but the more you try it, the EASIER it becomes, and you begin to reap the REWARDS

My Next Step Today Is:

- I will start off each weekday morning this week reading a portion of Mark or James from the New Testament & will surrender my life to Him & ask that my connection with God will grow
- I will memorize: 1 Peter 5:6 “So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time He will lift you up in honor.”
- I will spend some time this week reflecting on areas of my life where I may feel entitled

Next week: Join us as we explore “Justifiable Resentment – Blinded by Bitterness.” Invite a friend!

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