

“They Go Together!”

1 Timothy 6:3-10

Intro. – H.T. Webster, a newspaper cartoonist, amused himself one time by sending telegrams to twenty of his friends whom he selected at random. Each telegram contained just one word: **“Congratulations!”** As far as Webster knew, not one of these friends had done anything special for which to have received a compliment such as this. “Yes,” Webster said, “Without exception, all twenty assumed they had done something worthy of the congratulatory telegram and immediately wrote letters of “thanks.”

Here is another illustrations along these lines. The late professor Irwin Edman of Columbia University once told of the time he had a chat with a French monk. The monk bemoaned the fact that his order of priests was not as famous as the Jesuits (known for their scholarship) and the Trappists (known for their silence and good works). “But,” added the monk, “When it comes to humility, we’re tops!”

I use these illustrations to introduce the subject matter of our text. 1 Timothy ends as it begins. False doctrine is the issue. The *context* of false teaching is covered in chapter one. In this section, the *character* of false teachers is set forth.

Purpose: to better understand how false teaching and pride go hand in glove

Now what do the two illustrations above have to do with false teachers? They dealt with pride. False teachers’ character and pride are synonymous; they go together!

I The CONDITIONS of Pride (6:3)

- conditional “if” is NOT introducing a hypothetical situation; instead, introducing real life dilemma:
- A. Pride Always Leads to Error
 1. False teachers then AND now are “advocates” of *different* or *false* doctrines:
 - note: επεποδιδασκαλει (heteradidaskalei) = where we get our word “heretic” = teach otherwise... or to teach something false...
 2. Such teaching involved(s) the proclamation of another “gospel:”
 - a. Galatians 1:10 “*For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please me, I would not be a bond servant of Christ.*”
 - b. the basis/motivation in pleasing men is what? PRIDE!
 - c. this was denied(s) salvation is BY grace, THROUGH faith, AT baptism.... It led to the error once could and is saved by their good works...
 3. The basis of this error = pride, the desire for man’s approval = when we seek men’s approval rather than God’s, pride is the condition leading to that sin!
- B. Pride Always Rejects Truth
 1. The false teacher does not *agree* or *consent* to sound words = i.e. to TRUTH:
 - a. the word “consent” = *come to* – Pride doesn’t embrace, nor want to embrace truth!
 - b. pride doesn’t receive truth or want the truth..
 2. Truth properly taught and practiced radically transforms the teacher and the student.
 3. Pride always prevents acceptance and application of truth:
 - a. the fruit will not be evident – why?
 - b. this is a main condition of pride = where the truth is always void
 - c. why do you think so many politicians seldom speak the truth?
 - d. Illus. – cartoon shows a boss slamming his fist on the desk saying, “I don’t want to shun publicity, BUT, I want people to know I shun publicity!”

Point: pride always leads to error and always leads to rejecting the truth

II The CHARACTERISTICS of Pride (6:4-5)

- attitude/actions of prideful teacher are now set forth:

A. Conceited Ignorance

1. “Conceited” = like a balloon fully inflated, puffed up
2. Earlier, under the inspiration of God, Paul condemned putting novices (immature Christians) in places of leadership lest they become *conceited*... Later (2 Timothy 3:4) conceited will be the trait of apostates in the last days...
3. “Understanding nothing” = “unable to concentrate on or do any deep thinking...”
 - a. Illus. – Arabian proverb = “he who knows not and knows not that he knows not: he is to be shunned.”
 - b. 2 Timothy 3:7 “...*always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.*”

B. Spiritual Illness

1. “Morbid,” “unhealthy,” “sickly”
2. Since pride leads false teachers to reject a diet of sound words they succumb to 2 sinful diseases:
 - a. questions = constant mental inquiries for the sake of asking and not for finding answers
 - Illus. – remember Adam/Marah ask questions... but when asked to jabber... irritating
 - b. disputes about words = pride filled and false teachers generate word wars – Titus 3:9-11 = pride makes a person like to fight...

C. Personal Conflicts

- proud teacher looks upon others as a threat = reacts and five of these reactions are given:
 1. Envy = pride causes jealousy of others’ success and attention drawn away from them...
 2. Strife = proud people put others down to elevate themselves... envy is the emotion and strife is the expression of it...
 3. Abusive language = proud people verbally assault those who dare to disagree with them...
 4. Evil suspicions = proud people are terribly insecure... all sorts of evil suppositions arise in their imaginations... there is no room for trust...
 5. Constant friction = proud people are impossible to get along... can’t please... never satisfied...

D. Perverted Minds

- spiritually bankrupted... cater to the flesh and not to the Spirit... totally void of truth...

E. Materialistically Motivated

1. False teachers commercialize “religion” = it’s not a vocation, it’s a career...
2. In the “business” not to serve Christ, but to simply advance self.
3. Pride rationalizes this to the hilt...

Characteristics of pride are diametrically opposed to the calling and cause of Christ!

III The CAUSE of Pride (6:6-10)

- Proverbs 29:23 = “A man’s pride shall bring him low.”
- why then do we all struggle with pride?

A. Ignorance of Contentment (vv 6-8)

- 3 principles must be understood to avoid pride:
 1. Real “success” is spiritually/inward not material/outward
 - a. inward satisfaction not determined by outward circumstances...
 - b. basis of this contentment is the sufficiency of Christ...
 2. Eternal/spiritual matters are far superior to material matters. Why?
 - a. life begins/ends with the absence of the material... entered and leave with nothing...
 - b. Luke 12:15 “...*be on guard, for even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions?*”
 - c. harmful desires/lusts = intense passions that destroy characteristics of God’s image in man...
 3. Punishment is sure:
 - a. “drowning” = used of boats sinking because they are overloaded = i.e. the wealth desired to take man to the top is the very thing that will ruin him...
 - b. “destruction” = reference to future = “*what will a man give in exchange for his soul?*”

B. Love of Money (6:9-10)

1. Money isn't evil = morally neutral = either a curse or a blessing pending on motivation behind it...
2. Pride loves money = resulting in three ill effects:
 - a. root of all sorts of evil = variety problems (stealing, defrauding, cheating etc.)
 - b. wander from the faith = led away from redemptive truth...
 - c. pierced with grief = guilty conscience, bad memories, broken friendships, no hope...

If history teaches us one thing, teaches that joy and contentment comes ONLY when life is centered in God. Pride says, "No, there's another way and the world has it."

Conclusion: A preacher had just finished a stirring sermon on pride. A woman who had heard the message told the preacher she was distressed of mind. She had to confess a great sin. "Why, what could that possibly be?" the preacher asked. "The sin of pride," replied the good sister. "I sat in front of the mirror just this morning admiring my beauty." "Oh," responded the preacher, "Sister, I can assure you, yours is not the sin of pride – yours is the sin of imagination."

You get the point. But do you get the point of this text? False teachers and teachings are deadly. Pride is deadly. The whole point of this passage is to persuade you and me ***they go together!*** Are you persuaded? Do we see, accept and realize pride leads to false teaching and false teaching feeds pride.

On a certain pond lived a frog with two ducks. They were the best of friends. But, one summer brought a drought. The water supply was used up and all three realized they would have to move. Now the ducks could easily fly to another place, but, what about their friend, frog? Finally, it was decided they would put a stick in the bill of each duck, and Frog would tightly hold on to the stick with his mouth and together they would fly him to their next home together. The stick was gathered. The ducks placed it in their bills, and Frog hung on for dear life with his mouth. All went well till this trio flew over a farmer in his field. The farmer looked up exclaiming: "Isn't that clever. I wonder whose idea that was!" Frog, hearing his, looked down and said, "I didddddd..."

Wherever false teaching is, there will be pride. Wherever pride is there will be false teaching. Remember – ***they go together.***