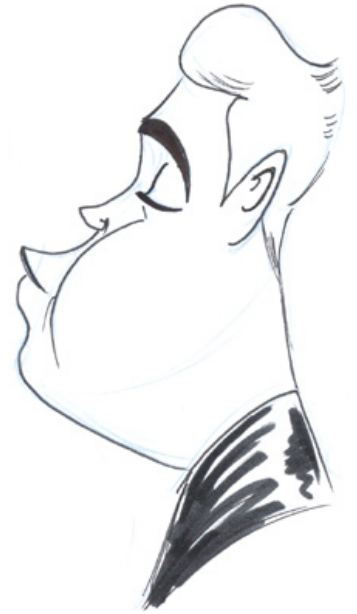


*"O love the LORD, all ye His Saints: for The LORD Preserveth The Faithful, and plentifully rewardeth the proud doer." Psalms 31:23 KJV*

"The proud doer" is confident in self, arrogant, and regardless of the rights of others. Self-confidence is the armour-bearer of sin. It may not necessarily be overt, but at its source is a secretly held contempt for others. God *"plentifully rewardeth the proud doer."* A reward is a deserved compensation. *"Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."* If you plant corn, you will not reap apples! Most fruit trees take several years to produce fruit and must be carefully cultivated in the interim. Pride is the fruit of a wicked heart. Wickedness is cultivated evil. Careful pruning is necessary to increase the yield. However, Believers are instructed, *"In lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves."* What you may skillfully conceal is open to God. *"Thou knowest my thoughts afar off and there is nothing hid that shall not be revealed."* We must have compassion for even the desperately wicked and at the very least, pity their blindness. *"In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the Light of the Glorious Gospel of Christ, who is the Image of God, should shine unto them."* Paul did more to strengthen and build the Gentile Church than anyone, but considered himself *"the chiefest of sinners."* He wrote, *"But by the Grace of God I am what I am: and His Grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the Grace of God which was with me."* This is the true attitude of humility and meekness. The Sovereign of Eternity, your Lord Jesus Christ, *"humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."* Were you pure when you sought God's forgiveness? If you are anything at all, it is because *"God... Worketh in you; both to Will and to Do of His Good Pleasure."* Jesus said, *"I am the True Vine...ye are the branches...without Me ye can do nothing."* Without the Vine, branches are useless! Do you have unexplained troubles and grief? Perhaps you have contempt or anger towards another. Ask the Holy Spirit to search and see *"if there be any wicked way in me."* Let the Spirit guide you as you read and study and let God's Word ferret out the dark corners of sin in your heart. Be quick to submit to its Holy Truth and use the cleansing of confession and repentance to rid yourself of the world's grime. *"Put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof."* Put on Christ through faith and obedience of God's Word.



Oh be not proud with vain deceit,  
For we do not with men compete,  
Our soulful pride must be put down,  
So we may one day wear a crown. –CGP

You'll never know the mind of Christ with feigned humility. Few possess it, for if you think you're humble, you're absolutely not! True humility is defined in 1Corinthians 13. *"Charity (agape: God's love) suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up; Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things."* This is truly the *"Mind of Christ. God resisteth the proud, but giveth Grace unto the humble."* Faithfulness is not, never falling, but *"rising yet again"* when you do. The earmark of the faithful is their desire to obey in spite of their weaknesses! *"Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall. Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud. He that handleth a matter wisely shall find good: and whoso trusteth in the LORD, happy is he."* God knows if your heart is toward Him or against Him; He will preserve the Faithful.

*"And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto His Heavenly Kingdom: to whom be Glory for ever and ever. Amen." 2 Timothy 4:18 KJV*