

*"The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate." Proverbs 8:13 KJV*

Pride is at the top of the list of evil. Many times we are being prideful without realizing it. *"There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy: who art thou that judgest another? Go to now, ye that say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain:' Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye ought to say, 'If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.' But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil. Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."* Whenever my desires usurp God's commands, I'm being prideful. Lucifer said, *"I will...?"* Jesus prayed, *"Not my will, but Thine."* When what I will conflicts with Father I must either choose righteousness or evil. There's no "middle of the road" with God. If you are not 100% with Him, you are against Him. *"He that is not with me is against me: and he that gathereth not with me scattereth."* Pride breeds arrogance which is evil. GOD HATES PRIDE! The mark of a true believer is their willingness to put aside personal desires and feelings and obey. *"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, that ye have love one for another."* It does not imply that we tolerate blatant sin, but we should determine to forgive when forgiveness is sought. Peter asked the Lord, *"Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Till seven times?"* Jesus saith unto him, *'I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.'* Does this mean that I forgive someone 490 times and then I'm done? I believe there is a deeper meaning. God rested on the seventh day. His work was complete. Seven, therefore, is the number of completion or completeness. Jesus was teaching that we should completely forgive. To be like God we must forget offences. There is a saying, "Love is blind," but love really isn't blind. It means simply faults are of no consequence. It doesn't matter. I love my wife. She's not perfect, no one is, but it doesn't matter. I love her anyway. God loves us. We are far from righteous, but it doesn't matter. Our condition does not determine our worthiness; it's the character of the giver that determines it. God has deemed us worthy of His love for His own sake. *"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us. For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."* We have done nothing, nor can we do anything to merit God's favor. Fellow believers shouldn't have to earn our favor. It should be given freely, because Father commands it, and because we love Him. *"We love Him because He first loved us. Love one another as I have loved you."* Your fellow believers will love you if you first love them. Self-centeredness, pride, will never allow you to obey Father. It will bind you in the dungeon of sin and you will be a prisoner of your own making!



Your pride will go before your fall,  
None will escape, it conquers all,  
If from its chains, you would be free,  
Let "Forgiveness" your motto be. ~CGP

Do you find it hard to forgive? Remember, Christ loved you when you didn't deserve it.

*"As it is written, 'There is none righteous, no, not one,' – but God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 3:10 – 5:8 KJV*