

HUMILITY: COMING TO GOD ON HIS TERMS

"The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise." (Psalm 51:17) The following list contrasts the heart of a proud person with the heart of a humble and contrite person.

Ask God to show you which characteristics of a proud heart are true of you.

Proud people...	Humble people...
1. focus on the failures of others	1. are overwhelmed with a sense of their own spiritual need
2. have a critical, fault-finding spirit; look at everyone else's faults with a microscope but their own with a telescope	2. are compassionate; can forgive much because they know how much they have been forgiven
3. are self-righteous; look down on others	3. esteem all others better than themselves
4. have an independent, self-sufficient spirit	4. have a dependent spirit; recognize their need for others
5. have to prove they are right	5. are not argumentative
6. claim rights; have a demanding spirit	6. yield their rights; have a meek spirit
7. are self-protective of their time, their rights and their reputation	7. are self-denying
8. desire to be served	8. are motivated to serve others
9. desire to make a name for themselves	9. are motivated to be faithful and to make others a success
10. desire self-advancement	10. desire to promote others
11. have a drive to be recognized and appreciated	11. have a sense of their own unworthiness; are thrilled that God would use them at all
12. are wounded when others are promoted and they are overlooked	12. are eager for others to get the credit and rejoice when others are lifted up
13. have a subconscious feeling that says, "This organization is privileged to have me and my gifts;" think of what they can do for God	13. have a heart attitude that says, "I don't deserve to have any part in this work;" know that they have nothing to offer God except what He enables them to do

Proud people...	Humble people...
14. feel confident in how much they know	14. are humbled by how very much they have to learn
15. are self-conscious	15. are not concerned with self at all
16. keep others at arms' length	16. are willing to risk getting close to others and to take risks of loving intimately
17. are quick to blame others	17. accept personal responsibility and can see where they are wrong in a situation
18. are unapproachable or defensive when criticized	18. receive criticism with a humble, open spirit
19. are overly concerned with what others think; work to protect their own image and reputation	19. are concerned with being real; what matters to them is not what others think but what God knows; are willing to risk their own reputation
20. find it difficult to share their spiritual needs with others	20. are willing to be open and transparent with others as God directs
21. want to be sure that no one finds out when they have sinned; their instinct is to cover up	21. once broken, don't care who knows or who finds out; are willing to be exposed because they have nothing to lose
22. have a hard time saying, "I am wrong; will you please forgive me?"	22. are quick to admit failure and to seek forgiveness when necessary
23. tend to deal in generalities when confessing sin	23. are able to acknowledge specifics when confessing their sin
24. are concerned about the consequences of their sin	24. are grieved over the cause, the root of their sin
25. are remorseful over their sin, sorry that they got found out or caught	25. are truly repentant over their sin; forsake their sin
26. wait for the other to come and ask forgiveness when there is a misunderstanding or conflict in a relationship	26. take the initiative to be reconciled when there is a misunderstanding or a conflict in relationships, no matter how wrong the other may have been
27. compare themselves with others and feel worthy of honor	27. compare themselves to the holiness of God and feel desperate need for His

	mercy
Proud people...	Humble people...
28. are blind to their true heart condition	28. walk in the light
29. don't think they have anything to repent of	29. realize they have need of a continual heart attitude of repentance
30. don't think they need revival but are sure that everyone else does	30. continually sense their need for a fresh encounter with God and for a fresh filling of His Holy Spirit

So what is your pride quotient? We should not wait for God to humble us. God says we must *humble ourselves*. When we do, God is always there with open arms of grace and love. Respond now to God in prayer.

- Agree with Him about each evidence of pride that He has shown you through this exercise
- Ask His forgiveness for your pride, realizing that pride is really an attempt to be "as God."
- Ask Him to continue to reveal anything that indicates pride in your life.
- Ask Him to show you any practical steps you could take to humble yourself before Him and others.